FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Middle East & North Africa

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PREPARATORY MEETING FOR STEADFASTNESS SUMMIT ENDS

Comments on 1 Feb Session

LD011514Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] The foreign ministers of the Arab steadfast countries resumed their meeting in Algiers this morning. At dawn today conference spokesman Abu Mayzar said that "member countries of the steadfast front, which consider the Palestinian issue to be the cornerstone of the Middle East problem, are convinced that ary attempts that do not take into consideration this fact will only add to the complication of the situation in the region." The conference is being held, he added, in an atmosphere of Arab capability to foil Zionist plans. Attempts to liquidate the rights of the Palestinians by means of imperialist plots are doomed. Peace in the region cannot be established without the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied territories and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian peoples, and in particular their right to set up an independent state on their soil. This was the view the ministers held, Abu Mayzar added.

In a statement Libyan Foreign Secretary at-Turayki said that the meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere. Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam said that the talks are going (?well): "We are prearing for the summit conference. We have agreed on the agenda and are [words indistinct]."

Abu Mayzar Press Conference

LD011645Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] Abu Mayzar, spokesman for the conference of the Arab steadfast countries, gave a press conference in Algiers last night, at which he reported that the meeting resumed in closed session yesterday afternoon to continue the study of the agenda adopted during the morning session. The delegations were to continue their work during the night to prepare the recommendations to be submitted to the heads' of state meeting.

[Mayzar--begin recording in Arabic, with superimposed French translation] "They are convinced that the attempts to liquidate the rights of the Palestinian people through the plots [word indistinct] by U.S. imperialism are destined to fail. They are convinced that peace in the Middle East can only be achieved by the evacuation of all the occupied territories as well as through the recognition of the rights of the Palestinians, including its right to self-determination, [words indistinct], as well as by the right to create an independent Palestinian state. [passage indistinct]

"They consider that current U.S. policy is the principal reason for the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East, and they consider that the current policy of the United States in the Middle East is fully responsible for the deterioration of world peace (?in the future)." [end recording]

Abu Mayzar Interview With JANA

LD011452Y Tripoli JANA in English 1405 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Algiers, February 1, JANA--Official spokesman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Abu Mayzar has said the forthcoming Algiers summit of steadfast Arab countries will undoubtedly produce important results to support the front of steadfastness and confrontation.

He told JANA in an interview here that the summit will lay down the charter of the front and take measures and decisions to strengthen the Arab capabilities of steadfastness against all imperialist and Zionist plans to harm the Arab cause during this critical stage.

He said during the two months between the first and the second summit conferences, important developments had taken place, especially in connection with the efforts of the front members to strengthen their position at the Arab and international levels.

Abu Mayzar said one of the major developments was the visit undertaken by the Algerian president to Arab countries, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

Abu Mayzar said the fact that the summit was being held on Algerian land confirmed the determination of the Arab nation and the liberation movements to continue their confrontation against the capitulation course embodied in the implementation of the Zionist-American plots.

Ministers Complete Preparations

LD021116Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] A short while ago the official spokesman for the ministerial conference of the Arab front of steadfastness and confrontation stated that the foreign ministers of the front concluded their work at an early hour this morning on all points of the proposed agenda for the steadfastness summit conference. Agreement was reached on all recommendations to be submitted to the summit conference, which begins today. The official spokesman said there was complete understanding on all issues discussed.

LEADERS ARRIVE IN ALGIERS FOR STEADFASTNESS SUMMIT

Syrian, PDRY Leaders Arrive

LD012122Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria and 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the PDRY Unified Political Organization--National Front, arrived in Algiers today accompanied by their delegations. They were welcomed at the airport by President Houari Boumediene.

At the airport President al-Asad made the following statement to the press: [begin recording]

[Radio reporter] Mr President, on behalf of Algerian radio and television we welcome you and ask you to evaluate the situation after the Tripoli summit. Can you also say a word about this second steadfastness summit, to be held in Algiers, and the prospects for these events now being witnessed by the Arab nation, which is anxiously looking to the steadfastness summit?

[Al-Asad] Thank you for your greetings. I am happy to be in the sister country of Algeria. The members of the delegation and I are happy to come to Algeria to take part in the summit conference of the steadfastness front. As I said elsewhere, we are optimistic as to the results of this meeting. We will try to strengthen the Arab position so that it can confront the plans which are being hatched against us in the Arab region.

No doubt Arab citizens everywhere are looking to this meeting with optimism, and we hope we can justify the good faith of the Arab citizens who look to this meeting with so much optimism. [end recording]

'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il also made a statement in which he said: [begin recording]

[Radio reporter] 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, on behalf of Algerian radio and television, we warmly welcome you. We would like you to give us and members of the national and foreign press a statement on this occasion of your arrival in Algiers to attend the steadfast Arab summit.

['Abd al-Fattah Isma'il] At this moment of our arrival in Algeria we are very hopeful that the Algiers session will be a continuation of our common stance, a continuation of the common Arab national struggle against our enemies--the imperialists, Zionists and reactionaries. We are confident that the meeting will assume historic importance by laying down a real foundation which will enable the Arab front to continue the march with greater faith, firmness and determination toward the realization of the Arab national objectives and toward supporting the Arab revolutionary forces and frustrating all imperialist and Zionist plans in the Arab region. [end recording]

Following the arrival of the Syrian president at the Aures Hotel, President Boumediene called on him and they held their first talks. In the Aures Hotel the foreign ministers of the front of steadfastness and confrontation reassembled after suspending their session when the Arab leaders arrived in the capital this afternoon. The session is being held in complete secrecy, making it difficult to obtain any reports. The ministerial conference is expected to approve a draft delcaration prepared by the political committee to be referred later to the summit conference due to open tomorrow.

Al-Asad Stops Over in Tripoli

JN011955Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpts] Algiers--His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Algiers airport this evening to participate in the second steadfastness and confrontation summit conference.

His excellency the president's plane had landed in Tripoli airport for refueling. The president was received at the airport by Maj Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, who deputized for Chairman Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in view of the latter's departure for Algeria.

Replying to a question by the JANA correspondent, his excellency the president said: We are optimistic regarding the results of the convocation of the steadfastness conference in Algiers. Naturally, Arab masses everywhere attach great importance to the results of the summit in Algiers. Everybody can imagine that the topic of discussion will be the strengthening of the Arab position to confront the conspiratorial machinations being concocted against the present and future of our nation.

We are totally confident that the Arab nation will ultimately triumph despite all the obstacles and barriers which obstruct its march of struggle. We base this confidence on the fact that we are owners of rights, that we are owners of values and heritage and that we are determined to wrest victory.

Concluding his statement, his excellency the president said: On the occasion of my passing through Tripoli, I extend warm greetings to our Arab people in Libya in my name and on behalf of the Arab people in Syria. I also extend wishes for progress and prosperity to this great people. It also gives me pleasure to hail brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and my brothers in the command.

Libyan, Palestinian Leaders Arrive

LD012124 [Editorial Report LD] Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic at 1938 GMT on 1 February begins carrying a live relay from Algiers airport covering the arrival of the Libyan delegation and Palestinian leaders for the summit meeting of the steadfastness and confrontation states. Those arriving include Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and leader of the Libyan delegation; Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DPFLP]; and Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC].

A reporter asks Libya's Major Jallud for a statement and he replies: "The second conference of the steadfast states will be another opportunity to develop our actions along positive lines."

The reporter then turns to Nayif Hawatimah for his comments. Hawatimah says: "We members of the Palestinian revolution have come here to emphasize the necessity of changing the front of steadfastness from a general political alliance into a strategic progressive front against the imperialist United States, Zionist Israel, Arab reactionaries and all capitulatory and liquidationist solutions proposed in the region, because the people of Palestine and their national question are now exposed to a decisive, fateful danger.

"Israel is proposing the liquidation of the Palestinian question by setting up self-government in the West Bank and Gaza under Israeli hegemony, thus paving the path for their annexation into the part of Palestine occupied in 1948. The United States, assisted by As-Sadat and King Husayn is putting forward another proposal based on the establishment of a Palestinian entity in the West Bank and Gaza linked to Jordan. King Husayn is waiting for his role to sit at the table of surrender with As-Sadat and Begin. That is why we say that the steadfast summit is required to transform itself from a political summit into a strategic progressive summit capable of full military, material and political action, of opening all Arab borders to Palestinian revolutionary action in occupied Palestine, of making the Palestinian revolution a continually growing power and of taking a number of practical measures that could strengthen strategic defense along the frontlines facing the Israeli enemy. This is to pave the path for the transition to new armed conflict with the enemy. We say most frankly that those parts of our country, Palestine, that were usurped and occupied by force can only be regained by force."

In his arrival statement PFLP-GC leader Ahmad Jibril says: "Surely many millions of our Arab people throughout the Arab homeland are looking to Algiers, where Arab patriots and progressives are to meet. The imperialist and Arab reactionary camp has become manifest in the names it contains and the facts and plans it stands for.

"We believe that the imperialist and reactionary camp aims at confrontation not only over the Palestinian question, but also with all patriotic and progressive forces in the Arab homeland. Therefore, what is now required of the second steadfastness conference in Algiers is to come out of the framework of theoretical words into a practical program on the military, economic and political levels. We believe that, like the imperialist-reactionary camp, which has begun to reduce its words and increase its actions, we should talk less and move into action."

'Arafat Arrives in Algiers

LD012332Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

[Text] A short while ago, Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Algiers. He was welcomed by brother Mohamed Yazid, Algerian ambassador to Lebanon.

First Talks of Leaders

LD020950Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 2 Feb 77 LD

[Excerpt] Before the summit, which, I remind you, is to begin this morning, contacts have already begun between President Boumediene, President al-Asad of Syria, and PDRY party Secretary General 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il. Major Jallud also joined these talks. The Algerian and Syrian heads of state had already had talks on the international situation and on the second summit of steadfastness.

Finally, let us point out that in a verbal message sent to the conference of the Arab countries of the resistance front, which are to meet in Algiers, the minister of foreign affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam said: The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is following with interest and expresses its active support for the conference. It appreciates the efforts of the conference to unite the progressive Arab forces with a view to strengthening the Arab progressive front, particularly of the PLO, which is fighting against all the divisive maneuvers of the imperialists, Israel and other reactionary forces against Arab unity.

PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL POSTPONES SCHEDULED MEETING

JN012119Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Feb 78 JN

[Text] The meeting which the PLO Central Council was scheduled to hold in Damascus today has been postponed until next weekend. A responsible source at the PLO said that the reason for the postponement is that several members of the PLO Central Council will attend the meetings of the heads of state of Libya, Algeria, Syria, and the PDRY and the PLO Executive Committee Chairman, which will be held in Algiers soon.

KUWAIT

BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS, OFFERS STATEMENTS

ID0111938Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Belgian Foreign Minister Henri Simonet has declared that no lasting peace can be realized in the Middle East unless Israel withdraws from the occupied Arab territories and recognizes the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to set up their own homeland. Simonet told a press conference this afternoon that the Palestinian people, like other people, must be recognized and that a solution for this issue must be found.

Referring to President as-Sadat's peace initiative, the Belgian foreign minister said that Belgium's position and that of other EEC countries is not to interfere at present; they are awaiting the outcome of President as-Sadat's visit to Washington. The failure of current peace efforts in the Middle East, he added, would be a big problem not only for the Middle East countries or the Arab countries but also for Europe and the entire world.

Regarding the present conflict in the Horn of Africa, he said that his country's position and that of the EEC countries is to move the region out of the great powers' struggle.

Regarding his visit to Kuwait, he said that he had exchanged viewpoints with Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah on a number of current issues, including development of the Middle East crisis, the situation in the Horn of Africa and also the consolidation of relations between the two countries in various fields, particularly economics. He added that a Kuwaiti delegation will be going to Belgium soon to discuss the possibility of cooperation between the two countries. Simonet added that, when he had the honor of an audience with his highness the amir today, he extended an invitation to his highness from King Baudouim to visit Belgium. His highness accepted the invitation in principle.

The Belgian minister left the country this evening at the end of a 2-day visit. He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah; Foreign Affairs Under Secretary Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rashid; Director of Protocol at the Ministry Faysal as-Salih; and the Belgian ambassador to Kuwait.

SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT REJECT PROPOSALS ON ARAB SUMMIT

NC0208502Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 2 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 2 February--Quoting Arab diplomatic sources in Algiers, the Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM today says that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have rejected several proposals by Arab states, including the YAR and Sudan, to hold a comprehensive Arab summit conference under the slogan of seeking the restoration of Arab solidarity.

These sources added that the governments of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have agreed to hold this conference on one condition: that Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat should announce at the People's Assembly the failure of his peace initiative with Israel. These sources told the paper that Sudan has communicated the results of these efforts to Cairo and that the Egyptian president's answer was that his initiative is continuing and has not yet ended.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM CRITICIZES U.S. POLICY ON GULF

LD3120037Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 29 Jan 78 pp 1,19 LD

[Editorial: "The American Game and the Oil"]

[Text] For some time, or more specifically since the October war, the Americans have not missed a single opportunity to point their fingers at the gulf: the gulf is in danger; we must be prepared to intervene quickly, and so on and so forth.

Yesterday the U.S. defense secretary added a further clarification by saying that "the United States should have the necessary forces for simultaneously halting any Soviet attack on Europe and for sending expeditions to settle local disputes in such areas as the gulf...." It is the duty of the defense secretary to be prepared for any "surprise attack on Europe," but why does he include us in his protection even in the case of a dispute between Ra's al-Khaymah and Umm al-Qaywayn, for example? Doesn't his statement mean just such a situation?

We know how much the United States is interested in our oil and in this "Arab milk cow." We know this too well. But we also know that the major and only danger to the gulf area is that represented by the United States or by some of its allies. Otherwise, where would the danger to the gulf come from? Which is the party that is always trying to start fires around this inflammable gulf?

Does Washington believe that we are so stupid as not to know its role in the current bloody struggle in the Horn of Africa and not to know the ulterior objectives behind the successive hints about the possibility of local explosions in the gulf? Does Washington think that we are unaware of the designs behind such implicit threats to intervene in the gulf every time the general situation calls for making new concessions to Israel?

A coincidence is called a coincidence since it seldom happens, but U.S. threats to Arab oil are no longer a coincidence nor are they related only to security or trade. Such threats have been exposed as a means of blackmail and coercion; they are a covert attempt to pull the reins and a means of negating the role of Arab oil in backing the national Arab right in Palestine or in the Arab-Israeli conflict in general.

Perhaps this once again reveals the nature of U.S. intentions and the kind of peace that is being designed for this area. It also shows that Washington does not want to deal with Arabs who talk to it standing up.

But as Washington is playing this game with ease it looks at the Arab arena and sees the miserable conditions. Therefore it behaves without care or calculation. It can see that Cairo has broken all Arab links and is dealing with the conflict with Israel as if all the other Arab parties are mere onlookers or infants.

It can also see that the dispute between Baghdad and Damascus, despite the expected meeting in Algiers, is almost of the same magnitude as the Arab-Israeli conflict. In other words, the Arab national tragedy, despite all its serious implications, is a failure to put aside Arab tribal or party disputes.

Therefore, why should we ask President Carter to "button" his jacket when he talks to the Arabs?

The fault is ours and the shortcomings are ours. If we do not respect ourselves then no one will respect us. We shall remain an object of international mockery and contempt as well as a playground and a deplorable symbol of the remnants of history.

YEMEN--PDRY

UPONF OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR ALGIERS, MAKES STATEMENT

LD011559Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Summary] 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, Secretary General of the Unified Political Organization--National Front [UPONF], left for Algiers today to attend the Arab confrontation conference.

"Shortly before leaving Aden International Airport with his accompanying delegation, brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il told the press: the PDRY's participation in the Algiers confrontation and steadfastness front summit with a high-level delegation reflects the desire of UPONF to strengthen the ranks of the front of progressive Arab forces and to step up the front's struggle to foil the defeatist policy and the humiliating sellout of the Palestinian cause, the central reason for the Arab nation's struggle. He said: We regard this conference as a new step toward reinforcing the progressive pan-Arab front created by the Tripoli summit and enhancing its militant political role in the conflict between the Zionist occupiers and the Arab peoples.

"Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il added: The Algiers summit conference is an Arab political demonstration against the policy of prostration and capitulation being adopted by circles of the Egyptian regime and those of pro-U.S. imperialism reaction. The brother secretary general stressed that the Algiers summit expresses the determination of the peoples of our Arab nation to oppose humiliating defeatist solutions aimed at perpetuating Zionist occupation of Arab territories and striking at the Palestinian revolution and exterminating the Palestinian people's right to return to their territories and build their state.

"Concluding his press statement, brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il expressed confidence that the Algiers summit would strengthen the role of the Arab national liberation movements in their struggle to confront the designs of U.S., Zionist and reactionary circles, to liberate the occupied Arab territories and to restore all legitimate rights of the heroic Palestinian people.

"It is known that the Algiers confrontation and steadfastness front summit will discuss ways of implementing the resolutions of the Tripoli conference and guaranteeing confrontation of the results of the Zionist-Egyptian dialog, which is proceeding within the framework of U.S. imperialism and is poised to strike at the entire Arab region."

HASANI RECEIVES VISITING SAHARAN PRIME MINISTER

LD011904Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] At his office this afternoon brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, recieved brother Lamine Amin, prime minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic. During their meeting the two men discussed the situation in the Saharan Republic and the development of its people's struggle under the leadership of POLISARIO. Their discussion also touched on the situation in the Middle East and the Maghreb.

The Saharan prime minister arrived in Aden yesterday evening for a visit of several days.

AS-SADAT LEAVES FOR MOROCCO, U.S., OTHER COUNTRIES

NC0211l1Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 2 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 February--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and his wife left Cairo for Morocco before noon today to begin his important tour. He will visit the United States and six European states in addition to Morocco.

In a statement to newsmen before boarding the plane, President as-Sadat said: This trip will add new momentum to the peace process.

President as-Sadat was seen off at the airport by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, ASU Central Committee First Secretary Dr Mustafa Khalil, deputy prime ministers, ministers, Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Forces Lt Gen Muhammad 'Ali Fahmi, senior state officials and the ambassadors and charges d'affaires of the states which the president will visit.

President Anwar as-Sadat is accompanied by People's Assembly Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i, Chief of the President's Office Hasan Kamil, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz.

ATHERTON, EILTS LEAVE CAIRO FOR U.S. 2 FEBRUARY

NC0206555Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 2 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 February--Alfred Atherton, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affiars, left Cairo this morning after a 2-day visit. During his visit, Atherton met with President Anwar as-Sadat, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and a number of officials. He discussed with them the latest developments in the Middle East situation. Hermann Eilts, the U.S. ambassador to Egypt, left on the same plane.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES MUBARAK, KAMIL, ATHERTON 1 FEB

NC0115O6Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1447 GMT 1 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 February--President Anwar as-Sadat today received Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton.

EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS CONTINUE

Report on 1 Feb Session

NC0111l48Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1127 GMT 1 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 February--The Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee resumed its meetings at At-Tahirah Palace in Cairo today to complete the discussion of the subjects on its agenda. Today's session was attended by the Egyptian and Israeli delegations led by Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi and Gen 'Ezer Weizman.

1 Feb Evening Session

NC0118l44Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee resumed its meetings tonight in At-Tahirah Palace in Cairo. The Egyptian side to these meetings is led by Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production, and the Israeli side is led by Minister of Defense 'Ezer Weizman.

Military Spokesman's Statement

NC012017Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Major General Hasan al-Katib, the official military spokesman, has made the following official joint statement:

The second round of the Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee discussions were concluded this evening. The discussions dealt with the main subjects on the agenda of the Military Committee. The Israeli delegation led by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman will leave Cairo for Jerusalem tomorrow. It has been decided that the two sides will jointly determine the date for the next meeting.

Israeli Delegation Leaves

NC021406Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1352 GMT 2 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 February--Israeli Defense Minister Gen 'Ezer Weizman and the military delegation to the meetings of the second session of the Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee, which has been meeting at At-Tahirah Palace for the past 2 days, left Cairo for Jerusalem at 1515 today.

The Israeli delegation was seen off at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and War and War Production Minister Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi; ASU Central Committee First Secretary Dr Mustafa Khalil; Military Intelligence Director Maj Gen Muhammad Husayn Shawkat; and Armed Forces Morale Affairs Department Director Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Fattah al-'Aysawi. The Israeli delegation had arrived in Cairo last Tuesday.

MINISTER OF STATE GHALI VISITS YUGOSLAVIA

For Belgrade TANJUG and Cairo MENA reportage on the 29 January-1 February visit to Yugoslavia of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali, see the Yugoslavia section of the 30 January and subsequent issues of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

Returns to Cairo 2 Feb

NC020730Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 February--The minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, returned to Cairo from Belgrade this morning after a 4-day official visit to Yugoslavia during which he delivered a letter to Yugoslav President Tito from President as-Sadat. The letter deals with the latest developments in the Middle East and Egypt's point of view.

On arriving in Cairo, Dr Butrus Ghali said that during his meeting with President Tito, the Yugoslav president expressed great admiration for the courage of President as-Sadat, who made his historic visit to Jerusalem for the sake of peace. The Yugoslav president also expressed support for the Arab rights and denounced the Israeli intransigence which led to the break in the activities of the Egyptian-Israeli Political Committee in Jerusalem.

Regarding Egyptian-Yugoslav relations, Dr Butrus Ghali said it has been agreed to develop the relations between the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt and the League of Communists of Yugoslavia [LCY] and that preparations are being made in Belgrade to convene a conference of foreign ministers of nonalined states. The meeting is scheduled to be held in July and will be attended by Egypt.

AS-SADAT THANKS POPE SHANOUDA FOR SUPPORT

NC011608Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1529 GMT 1 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 February--President Anwar as-Sadat has sent the following cable to Pope Shanouda III, pope of Alexandria and patriarch of the missionary province of St Mark: I have received with gratitude your kind cable in which you expressed your support for our initiative for achieving a just peace in the area which has witnessed the steps of prophets and the heavenly missions. It pleases me to convey to you and to leaders and representatives of Christian churches and communities in Egypt my esteem, thanks and great appreciation of your noble feelings which prompted you to nominate me for the Nobel Peace Prize.

I pray to God to guide our march to arrive at its desired goals so that the peoples of our area may live in peace, security and prosperity for the welfare and prosperity of mankind. With my best regards, I wish you all good health and happiness. Blessed be the peacemakers.

U.S. JEWISH DELEGATION LEAVES FOR JERUSALEM

NC020936Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 2 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 February--The American Jewish delegation left Cairo for Jerusalem this morning after a 3-day visit during which it was received by President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and Al-Azhar Rector Dr 'Abd al-Halim Mahmud.

RADIO COMMENTS ON U.S. ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST

NC011550Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Feb 78 NC

[Hazim 'Abd ar-Rahman commentary: "Objective Discussion of the U.S. Role in the Middle East"]

[Text] The Middle East issue is now at the top of the list of international problems preoccupying world public opinion. According to political observers, the steps taken by Egypt in the efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict peacefully have proved Egypt's eagerness and sincerity in its search for peace. Observers have explained that the Egyptian stand--considered from the point of view that it is Egypt which makes the decisions of war or peace in the area--is of decisive and far-reaching strategic importance to the future of the area.

After the series of steps Egypt has taken since President as-Sadat's decision to visit Jerusalem on 19 November and his decision on 18 January to halt the work of the Political Committee and recall its delegation from the Jerusalem talks in view of Israel's clear, intransigent position on more than one area of negotiation, it is logical that Egypt reassess the situation and the various stands of the parties concerned with the problem. The U.S. stand is particularly important in view of the enormous influence Washington has on Israel.

At this juncture we do not need to engage in an elaborate discussion of the special relationship between the United States and Israel and the enormous supply of U.S. funds, arms and other means of support to Israel. This state of affairs was imposed on Egypt when it discovered that instead of the Israeli side becoming more flexible and responsive, it was becoming more intransigent and adopting a harder line.

This prompted President as-Sadat to say that the advanced U.S. arms Israel is receiving are the cause of Israel's intransigence and its adoption of the policy of imposing peace. It also prompted As-Sadat to say yesterday that the Egyptian people are absolutely right in asking the United States to adopt a firm and clear position toward the two parties to the Middle East issue if the purpose is to establish peace in the area. President as-Sadat cautioned that this does not necessarily mean that the Egyptian people do not appreciate the positions Washington has adopted so far; it means that the Egyptian people appreciate these positions and wish them to develop in a manner that will bring about a permanent and just settlement of the problem.

It is a fact that the stands Egypt has taken are so clear that they need no explanation. Because of this, it is no longer acceptable that the United States should be subjected or have to submit to the political blackmail Israel is using under the pretext of its security and the danger of annihilation to which it is exposed by the Arab side.

Referring to U.S. public opinion, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has stated that the Egyptian peace efforts have created a historic atmosphere for the establishment of peace in the area. These efforts have convinced not less than 80 percent of the Americans that Egypt truly wants peace.

Once again, this negates the claims that the security of Israel is threatened. This is being confirmed again and again by public opinion polls in West Europe and the United States. We do not believe, therefore, that the explanations that some aspects of the U.S. Middle East policy are due to the influence of Zionist pressure groups are acceptable any longer.

U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has emphasized his country's eagerness to maintain its relations with the two parties to the conflict. Naturally, asking the Arab side to renounce the Palestinian Arab people's rights or to abandon its insistence on liberating the land contradicts this eagerness. U.S. President Jimmy Carter has declared that human rights are one of the principles guiding U.S. policy in international affairs. Naturally, it is a contradiction of human rights to deny any people the right of sovereignty over their territories and countries.

President as-Sadat's statement presents the issue as follows: The road to peace in the Middle East requires the achievement of the logical results of these principles. Therefore, the United States should rid itself of the clear contradictions in its policy toward the area in order to meet the requirements of peace which the Egyptian people so eagerly desire.

CAIRO PRESS ON AS-SADAT TRIP, PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

LD020220Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2345 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Cairo, 1 February--In tomorrow's issues Cairo papers carry banner headlines on President Anwar as-Sadat's tour which will begin tomorrow and during which he will visit Morocco, the United States ane six European countries.

The papers emphasize that during his visit to the United States President as-Sadat will ask for a more decisive U.S. stand on the Middle East problem.

The papers prominently report Arab and worldwide interest in President as-Sadat's statements at his press conference yeserday following his meeting with the Jewish delegation headed by Rabbi (Joseph Benz) as well former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's statement in which he expressed support for the sale of U.S. fighters to Egypt.

AL-AKHBAR writes about President as-Sadat's firm stand on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. It says that when President as-Sadat stresses that there can be no compromise on the Palestine problem and that the right to self-determination for the Palestinians is the key to building a real peace in the Middle East, he once again emphasizes the clarity of the fundamental principles on which a just peace can be established in the area.

Continuing, the paper says: When Israel tries to deny the rights of Palestinians under pretexts of fear for its security or on the grounds of historical claims or religious pledges that give the Israelis the right to expand at the expense of the territory of others, such logic cannot possibly serve the cause of security in military, civilian, or legal terms because Palestinian resistance in the West Bank and Gaza will not stop regardless of the methods the Israeli occupation may resort to in suppressing such resistance.

The paper says that despite the fact that Israeli prisons are crowded with thousands of Palestinians accused of resisting occupation, bombings and assassinations did not stop in the (?occupied territories).

There is no doubt, the paper continues, that the Jews in Israel and abroad are aware of the lessons to be learned from occupying the territory of others by force. They saw the European peoples during World War II as they fiercely resisted the occupation of their lands and thus made maintaining security impossible despite mass annihilation operations.

Concluding, AL-AKHBAR affirms that recognition of the full Palestinian rights is the key to real security to all the peoples of the area. No reasonable person can be convinced that the security of Israel, with its vast military garrison, can be threatened by the Palestinian people freely determining their future, particularly since we know that Israel claims that all the Arab countries together cannot threaten its security.

U.S. MUST DEAL WITH ISRAELI NUCLEAR CAPABILITY

LD011537Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 29 Jan 78 p 5 LD

[Excerpts] The Israelis have raised an uproar over the issue of settlements, even though all the parties have admitted that they do not play any significant role in Israeli security. But the Israelis, who are accustomed to causing problems, have been surprised by the strong denounciation that came from all quarters.

Therefore, we must not be carried away by hopes that the road to negotiations, which the Israelis have obstructed with rocks and thorns, will rapidly become easy and accessible simply because Alfred Atherton spent a few days in Jerusalem following the suspension of talks at the Political Committee in an effort to achieve progress in the situation. This is not so, particularly because the Americans have brought us to see any move in the Israeli poisition, even of a single centimeter, as tangible progress.

However, it is certain that the recent developments have made another meeting between Presidents as-Sadat and Carter necessary. Intensive and continuing talks between the two presidents will deal with the present situation in the Middle East, which proves that there are fundamental difficulties that have not yet been overcome. Therefore, will the United States shoulder its responsibility fully, or will we continue to take two steps forward and one step backward?

If the Americans wish to fulfill their role, not only toward achieving the necessary political settlement but also toward world peace and future relations in the Middle East, they must also convince the Israelis to accept the principle of mutual inspection of their nuclear reactor in Dimona. Since December 1960, when the U.S. spy planes discovered the secret nuclear reactor, Israel has rejected any controls on its nuclear reactor.

The U.S. role in the Middle East peace must also include convincing the Israelis to sign the nuclear ban treaty, particularly as Israel is the only country that refused to sign it. To allow Israel to entangle the United States in futile discussions on Israeli security at a time when the whole world knows about its nuclear capability is inconsistent with the responsibilities of a major power with the major burden of preserving world peace on its shoulders.

We do not wish to create a problem regarding the Israeli nuclear reactor, but we would like to remind the United States of its role in preserving peace.

AL-AKHBAR ATTACKS PRAVDA ARTICLE ON SOVIET INFLUENCE

LD3122347 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 29 Jan 78 p 1 LD

[Text] Moscow--The Soviet newspaper PRAVDA said yesterday that the Soviet Union's influence cannot possibly be destroyed or completely removed from the Middle East or any other part of the world. This article in the CPSU organ reflects the Kremlin's desire to spread its policy throughout the world.

This is the first time that PRAVDA has written so audaciously and openly about Soviet influence in the Middle East. It has done so with a language reminiscent of the 19th century diplomacy that centered on the specific target of dividing the world into spheres of influence between the major powers.

When the Bolshevik revolution was staged its leaders declared that the era of spheres of influence was gone for good. The revolution leaders abrogated all the unequal treaties which the tsars concluded with underdog countries. We feel it is our duty to remind PRAVDA, the CPSU organ, of this history which it has often spoken about and on which it now turns its back. We must also remind PRAVDA that history is made by people and not in accordance with the whims and interests of the Kremlin leaders who are today ignoring the fact that there are sovereign peoples and states who alone have the right to manage their policies, determine their futures, and shape their histories despite the will of the Moscow rulers.

The Middle East will not be a sphere of influence to any major power no matter how its illusions may make it imagine that people are mere pawns in an international chess game. The Kremlin leaders will learn more lessons from the peoples of the area regarding the meaning of independence, sovereignty and nationalism.

AL-BAKR MESSAGE TO LEADERS OF FRONT OF STEADFASTNESS

JN011214Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 1 Feb 78 JN

[Text of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr's message to the leaders of Algeria, Syria, Libya, PDRY and the PLO on 29 November 1977]

[Text] Brother President Houari Boumediene, president of the democratic and popular Republic of Algeria; brother President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic; brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General People's Congress in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah; brother leader Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, chairman of the Presidential Council in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen; brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman; and brother secretaries general in the Palestinian rejectionist front:

Esteemed brothers, a greeting of Arabism and struggle.

Our Arab nation is currently passing through the most serious stage of its life. After long years of struggle, after the grave sacrifices the nation has made to achieve its freedom and dignity and to assert its position within the international community and after this struggle and these sacrifices which covered the entire Arab homeland, from the gulf to the ocean, the most sacred values and the dearest considerations are being exposed to degradation and loss, thus threatening the nation's freedom and gains and rolling its dignity in the dust. The blatant indicator of this situation is the treasonable and shameful visit made by the leader of the biggest Arab country to our usurped sacred land.

We all feel bitter, angry and pained over this visit and this situation. The Arab masses, despite the oppression dominating them in several countries and despite the misleading methods which have prevailed in the Arab atmosphere for many years--despite all this the Arab masses expressed their indignation and strong denunciation over this visit and their firm rejection of the results of this visit. Our feelings as leaders express the conscience of our nation and its genuine position.

Under these critical circumstances and crucial turning points, it is incumbent upon the leaders, who are shouldering the responsibility of leading the nation and affecting its fate and future, to study the matters deeply and seriously, with the highest degree of responsibility and with a comprehensive and integrated method utilizing the lessons and experiments. History, dear brothers, does not permit us to react to the current situation and to what happened following As-Sadat's visit to the occupied territories by means of an ordinary or emotional reply confined simply to showing rancor and denouncing stands and partial procedures. The masses of the Arab nation call upon us, nay they compel us, tomake our reply commensurate with the seriousness of what has happened and to present the road of hope to the nation.

Please permit me, dear brothers, to say in this regard, not for the sake of calculation or recording attitudes, but as a sincere Arab man keen on his issue and who wishes from the bottom of his heart to change the current deteriorating situation radically and comprehensively, please permit me to say that President as-Sadat's visit to the occupied territories does not represent the whole illness which afflicts the Arab nation or the entire danger facing and surrounding it. It is neither the beginning nor the end.

Out of our interpretation and assessment, we believe that As-Sadat's visit and the serious, treasonable and strange conduct implied by this visit is in fact the result of a course which has gone on for many years. This is a result based on acceptance of a peaceful settlement based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the Geneva conference. It is also a result of all the politicalmoves which have taken place in recent years.

Let us ask ourselves frankly and sincerely, what do these two resolutions mean? They mean reconciliation [as-sulh] with the Zionist entity, full recognition and recognition of its secure border. It was clear during the past months that the Arab sides which accepted the two resolutions and participated in the current contacts concerning them were prepared to establish so-called normal relations with the enemy, namely, diplomatic, economic and cultural relations with the Zionist usurpers.

What As-Sadat did was to go to the occupied territories, recognize the enemy completely and submit to him concessions implied by Resolution 242 before the implementation of this resolution by the enemy.

As-Sadat went to meet the enemy in Jerusalem instead of Geneva and separately instead of with the group of the peaceful settlement. Does treason lie in this only? Should his going after the implementation of this decision or for the sake of its implementation be considered normal and acceptable? Or did treason and peril lie simply in his going? Does treason have degrees and levels? Treason and peril existed in the trip to the occupied territory regardless of the timing. Furthermore, the natural evolution of the acceptance of the aforementioned two Security Council resolutions is recognition and normal relations and also going to the enemy or accepting his representatives in the capitals of the countries which accepted the two resolutions and agreeing to deal with the enemy normally.

This is the truth in all its bitterness. It behooves us as responsible leaders to keep in mind this truth. President as-Sadat committed treason earlier and in a very wreckless manner but in essence the two cases are the same.

Regardless of whether the two Security Council resolutions are implemented, we, as Arab leaders who believe in our nationalism and who cherish our land and dignity, do not agree to recognize or deal with the enemy or to give up our usurped land. The Palestine for which we are struggling is not only the West Bank but all of Palestine. As leaders we do not forget our ancient history. How can we then forget our contemporary history through which we ourselves have lived? Theoccupation of Sinai and the Golan in 1967 took place because we were calling for the liberation of Palestine, which was usurped before that date.

The traitorous step President as-Sadat took, brothers, is a result and an advanced link in a chain and not the beginning of a new course. It was not surprising except in its method and timing. Perhaps we did not expect As-Sadat to take such a step at this stage when he had not obtained from the enemy a promise to withdraw. But did we not expect something of this nature to take place if the settlement were to take place on the basis of Resolution 242 and the current moves? Thus the basic problem lies in the policy of settlement. This policy was built on deception and falsehoods and drove the nation to relinquish the rights and historic positions step by step and stage by stage. It tamed the masses, driving them to disintegration and despair. Otherwise, As-Sadat would not have dared to take this step.

To be fraternally frank but not to make accusations and create problems for the brothers, while President Hafiz al-Asad is reading what I am saying as you, dear brothers, are doing, we believe that the brothers in the Syrian Government shoulder a basic responsibility for the deterioration of the Arab situation to this extent.

After the October war they followed the same line as As-Sadat, although they sometimes differed with him on details and methods of implementation and expression. We did not say this. It is rather the brother officials in the Syrian Government who said it themselves. They used to state after settling their differences with President as-Sadat that they were in agreement with him on the strategy but differed sometimes on tactics and details.

Their blows to the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement were the main cause of the weakness of these two struggling forces, vis-a-vis the isolationist party which is colluding with the enemy and which is involved in the liquidationist scheme. By taking advantage of this clash, this party managed to strengthen its positions and to set up a semi-isolationist entity which today quite clearly appears to have a close alliance with the Zionist enemy. This, too, is one of the grave factors in the current Arab situation which enabled As-Sadat to carry out his traitorous step.

This analysis, which we believe in and which we do not conceal and which we say with fraternal frankness despite the pain it includes, motivates us at the same time to emphasize two vital matters:

1. We are required to adopt a crucial historic position to confront the deteriorating situation in full, not only a part of it as represented by As-Sadat's visit to the occupied territories and the treason, relinquishment and dangers implied by this visit.

2. We must be fully prepared to shoulder the responsibilities dictated by the sacred pan-Arab duty to confront this deteriorating situation and to change it in a manner that will open the road of hope and progress before the Arab nation.

Esteemed brothers, we received a message from President Hafiz al-Asad expressing his desire to set aside the differences between Iraq and Syria and to work to face our pan-Arab responsibilities. We also received a message from brother President Houari Boumediene through his personal envoy urging us to set aside the differences with the Syrian Government and to achieve common action. Brother 'Abd as-Salam Jallud also visited us in Baghdad and we are sorry that we could not receive him since the RCC vice chairman and I were outside Baghdad. Perhaps he wanted to propose to us the ideas of brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi urging us to hold meetings and to adopt stands in light of the new circumstances resulting from As-Sadat's visit to the occupied territories.

I would like to point out to you, brothers, that ever since President as-Sadat declared his intention to visit the occupied territories, the party command and the RCC has been in constant session in order to study all aspects of the situation. We were deeply pained that As-Sadat's declaration on 9 November to visit the occupied territories was not immediately given the proper reply. We do not hide the fact that in the beginning we thought we would be alone in facing him. We relied on the vigilance of the Arab masses under God and decided to define our position even if this meant we would be alone.

We issued a statement on behalf of the National Command of the Ba'th Party on 15 November condemning As-Sadat's conduct and stressing the right of the nation to resist its adverse impact and to reject any subsequent concessions. We called for a wide-scale popular move against the visit and its results. Later we were proud and happy because several Arab official and popular sides adopted a similar position, denouncing the visit and calling for resistance to it and for waging the struggle against its results.

Lately we have been thinking about what we should do to face the current serious circumstances. We were extremely happy over your generous initiative and messages which we considered as bright rays of light in a very dark situation.

Brothers, today we face the following crucial historic question: What to do? Should we be satisfied with holding official and popular meetings in order to adopt provisional and partial resolutions and stands, or should we take a bigger and more serious action?

In our assessment, what is demanded from us is a great historic, responsible, organized, continuing and long-term action based on endurance and serious determination. The central step in this action is that project which we had spoken about in past years and which was advocated by all the Arab nationalist forces--I mean the Arab front project.

Esteemed brothers, please permit me to place before you our conclusions which we believe can work as a basis for this front.

1. We must endeavor together to set up a pan-Arab front comprising our five states--Iraq, Libya, Algeria and the PDRY--as well as representatives of the resistance factions, provided that all political, military, economic and information resources are vested in the front to confront the serious collapse in the Arab situation.

2. The front should be based on a political charter which would define the common position toward the central Arab issue--Palestine. We believe that this position should be based on the radical and comprehensive rejection of the course leading to a settlement which has brought about the present status of the Arab situation, including deterioration and weakness. We must choose a new course that will enable us to move on all political, military and information levels and to ask for our rights without any concession of the historical rights of the Arab nation.

3. It is imperative that all tasks and political, military and economic commitments should also be defined from the beginning. Such great action will be faced with serious, massive reactions by the enemy and its allies, the United States and the imperialist countries, as well as by As-Sadat's regime and its allies among the Arab reactionaries. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to define our commitments and burdens in solidarity and commensurate with our economic, military and human resources.

We do not hide the fact that the creation of a front with such objectives and at such a level would make Iraq shoulder big responsibilities due to its weight and proximity to Syria and that great dangers stemming from this would threaten it from several known sides. We are fully ready to face these dangers for the sake of the pan-Arab issue, but these dangers for the sake of the pan-Arab issue, but these dangers must be understood by our brothers so they can shoulder their responsibilities with us just as we shoulder our responsibilities with them.

Consequently, the dangers do not threaten us alone; nay, they might threaten other sides of the front due to their participation in it and the shouldering of the pan-Arab responsibilities stemming from it. Therefore, solidarity and cohesion among us toward all dangers should be complete.

4. It is our judgment that to set up this front and make it an effective force capable of shouldering its historic responsibilities we should devote to it the best part of our efforts and political, military and economic resources. We should devote our full attention to it and set aside all the problems and preoccupations which are less important and less dangerous to the Arab destiny. We should likewise avoid linking such problems and preoccupations with the central issues for which the front is set up. This will require from us daring decisions commensurate with the historic circumstances through which we are passing today.

5. The establishment of the front will in our assessment mean dangerous confrontations with the enemy, imperialism and its allies in and outside the area. Perhaps the first arena in which the conflict will be hot and dangerous during the coming phase is the Lebanese. This requires quick and intensified action to strengthen the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement so that they may be able to deal with the Zionist threat to occupy southern Lebanon and to deal with the Lebanese local parties allied with the Zionist enemy.

In this connection, we deem it appropriate that the brother Syrians should express their readiness in principle to withdraw from Lebanon provided such withdrawal is effected on the basis of a decision to be taken by the command of the front which we are seeking to form and in accordance with a timetable and conditions to be determined by the command so as to provide the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement with perfect conditions for shouldering their responsibilities.

6. The current Arab position has become so weak and collapsing as a result of the policies and attitudes we have pointed out, that it has become realistically incumbent upon us to exert intensified efforts and to work for a long time within the framework of halting the collapse, strengthening the Arab position, arousing the ardor of the masses and mobilizing their forces to enable us to provide the prerequisites of the strategic counteroffensive against the entire imperialist-Zionist-reactionary scheme in the area.

The birth of this front, which has been a cherished hope for a long period, is overdue. During this period, mistakes were committed and efforts were wasted. But for this we would now be in a stronger position. The imperialist and reactionary forces have benefited from these conditions by strengthening their positions, consolidating their gains and strengthening their front. Our task, therefore, will be hard and complicated. By stressing this fact we are not drawing a dividing line between the consolidation of our positions and the provision of the prerequisites of the strategic offensive but want to stress the nature of the primary tasks facing us during this stage and to express our belief in the close link between the two tasks.

7. Our emphasis on the rejection of the settlement and on thwarting its previous course with all the stands, commitments and concessions stemming from it does not at all mean that we are calling for an adventurous course which does not take into consideration local or international objective conditions and balances. Neither does it mean that we belittle political and diplomatic action. What we are emphasizing is that our assessments and political and diplomatic moves must be agreed upon within the framework of the front. It should be directed by strategic struggle aimed at radically tackling the schemes and at seeking total liberation. There is an essential difference between this and past methods which led to the present Arab situation of disintegration and weakness.

The requirements of political action steered in accordance with the liberation strategy include carrying out organized and continuous international activities, consolidating our alliance with the friendly forces, especially the Soviet Union and the socialist countries and all the international forces which are in harmony with our course and interests. This also will require a preagreed course in harmony with this plan for dealing with other Arab regimes, particularly the reactionary regimes which played a basic and effective role in leading the Arab situation to this state of deterioration and disintegration in the interest of the imperialist scheme.

As-Sadat's step, which in our assessment is a dangerous episode of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary scheme, is not, and neither is the scheme, confined to an attempt to liquidate the Palestinian issue despite the holiness of this issue and its importance to Arab struggle. Their basic aims include containment of and strikes at the forces of Arab revolution headed by the progressive Arab regimes.

We in this country have known this truth for a long time. We made our calculations and took our precautions on the basis of it. We are strongly confident of our ability to defend the revolution and its gains against any aggression. In strongly calling for the establishment of the front, we are not doing so out of a feeling of need for self-defense as much as out of a principled determination to place our forces and resources in the pan-Arab confrontation battle--this battle which will lead to a general upheaval of the masses in the Arab homeland and to the safeguarding and strengthening of the positions of the progressive regimes, if the above-mentioned requisites of the battle are available.

8. One of the points we would like to affirm is that our stands regarding As-Sadat's treasonable step should not in any form harm the Egyptian people and arouse the spirit of regionalism in Egypt, because this might drive the Egyptian people to show solidarity with their deviant government, even when it is wrong. We should gear our measures to exposing the treasonable ruling clique and not to isolating Egypt or alienating ourselves from it. We have deep confidence in the Arabism and patriotism of the Egyptian people, who will not remain silent to As-Sadat's treason despite all the circumstances.

One of the things we should work for, with a spirit of sincerity and responsibility and remote from complexes and self-interest, is the crystallization of the position of the [Palestinian] resistance against a peaceful settlement and the unification of its various groups within one strong framework. The dispersal of the groups of the Palestinian resistance and the pressures, temptations, blows and sieges to which these groups have been exposed by several Arab regimes have driven some Palestinian quarters to make extremely dangerous concessions, while others have been driven to abandon their struggle course either forcibly or under the pretext of Arab circumstances and pressures. The Palestinian resistance movement should be pure force of struggle with a unified opinion and determination for liberation. We shoulder the historic responsibility of assisting it to reach this level.

After reviewing these points regarding the front, we would like to affirm that the establishment of this front and the adoption of this course of action were previously discussed on various occasions and contacts, resulting in responsibilities and specific commitments by the brothers in the Syrian Government, primarily the drastic and total abandonment of the policies which linked them with As-Sadat's regime during the stage which preceded the difference which arose between them regarding the visit [to Jerusalem], especially the policy of settlement which is based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as policies with other Arab and international quarters.

If we feel the historic necessity of a totally new stage--and this is what we understood from the message addressed to us by brother President Hafiz al-Asad--then we believe that this new stage requires a drastic and frank position. We have no objection to this being accomplished within the framework of total understanding, after approving the front's charter, its commitments and plan of action. However, this is an essential matter to us.

We should say a last word about the differences between us and the Syrian Government, particularly since President al-Asad has called for transcending [isqat] these differences. Frankly and with a sense of responsibility, we do not consider our differences with the Syrian Government as personal or marginal differences but as deep and basic ones. However, we have always distinguished between these differences--despite their importance at least as far as we are concerned--and our more important pan-Arab responsibilities.

We are not saying this today only. On the contrary, in the past we translated this line into tangible stands. We would like here to give as a reminder for the sake of truth and history our stands in this connection. Following the outbreak of the revolution, we made a major contribution to the establishment of the eastern front. Our forces took up positions there even after the September 1970 incidents. In 1972, after King Husayn announced the plan of the "United Arab Kingdom," and we realized that the aim of this declaration was the final liquidation of the Palestine issue, we immediately made a decision to reach rapproachement with the Syrian and Egyptian brethern and offered them either unity or coordination, provided that the goal be one of liberation.

In 1973, despite the encirclement affecting us and the information campaigns unleashed against us, we took the initiative to make a pan-Arab participation in the war. We carried out our commitments in the war on the Syrian and Egyptian fronts. We are proud of all this because we performed a sacred pan-Arab duty.

Last year we were in touch with you and raised the question of establishing the front. We gave conditions to the Syrian brothers which they regarded as difficult or impossible. When brother 'Abd as-Salam Jallud visited Baghdad in May 1976, he affirmed to us the commitment of the Syrian brothers to the points which we had agreed upon, provided that we give up our condition regarding their early proclamation renouncing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. We agreed, and we mobilized our military forces in preparation for dispatching them to the front with the enemy. You know what happened after that. We do not want to repeat it here.

In any case, proceeding from the profound feeling of enormous historic responsibility, and on the basis of the points we have outlined in this message. and despite the acuteness of the differences between us and the brothers in Syria, we are still fully prepared to embark on sincere and comprehensive joint action on the basis of the principles outlined in this message and within the framework of the front and its joint pan-Arab responsibilities and tasks.

In order for us to shoulder our historic responsibilities in a serious manner, we extend this invitation to you, esteemed brothers, to convene a meeting in Baghdad to discuss these questions and to reach, God willing, full agreement on them. We propose Monday, 5 December 1977, as the date for the meeting. For our part, we will prepare integrated proposals on a charter for the political front as well as aspects of the military and economic commitments and the organizational affairs of the front on the official and popular levels. We hope that you will respond to our invitation so that we might, with God's help, perform our pan-Arab duty and shoulder the full historic responsibility.

On this occasion, we hope that brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who was kind enough to invite us to attend the Tripoli meetings, will postpone this generous invitation, and that our first meeting will be restricted to the formula we are proposing in this message. During our meeting in Baghdad we can study the subsequent steps we must take, God willing. May God be our guide.

[Signed] Your brother Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, president of the Republic of Iraq, 29 November 1977

OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON ARAB-EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY MEETING

JN271020Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0758 GMT 27 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 January--Dr 'Abd al-Majid ar-Rafi'i, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party RCC member, has stated that the party has formulated broad guidelines for a comprehensive plan to oppose the imperialist conspiracy. He added that the plan is based on rallying Arab progressive and nationalist forces within a national front, with well-defined goals and means, and open to all progressive and liberation forces in the world.

This came in a statement by Dr ar-Rafi'i, broadcast on Baghdad radio in which he discussed the work and resolutions of the symposium of solidarity between Arab and European peoples held in Paris 14-15 January.

Dr ar-Rafi'i stressed that the symposium's final statement was a condemnation of the imperialist conspiracy in our Arab homeland, Europe and the Mediterranean Basin. He further said that the symposium was the beginning of more coordination among nationalist and progressive parties, organizations and liberation movements in the Arab homeland and their European counterparts to oppose the imperialist conspiracy and to struggle for a liberated and progressive world.

Dr ar-Rafi'i added that there was a great response to what the party submitted at the symposium. This response was manifested through a scientific analysis of the features of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught in our Arab homeland and the Lebanese events resulting from it.

He added that the representatives of liberation movements and parties participating in the symposium condemned As-Sadat's move and denounced the presence of such a ruler who has unconditionally surrendered to his enemy. He pointed out that by his move, As-Sadat has disavowed thousands of martyrs who fell along the road of the liberation of Palestine and the occupied Arab territories. He has also weakened Arab Egypt by isolating it from the fateful confrontation with the enemies.

He stated that a continuation of the dialog among the forces of imperialism and its plans all over the world will enable the front to move to the offensive. Delegations representing 38 Arab and European liberation movements and parties attended the symposium.

ELF OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN AMMAN TO CANVASS SUPPORT

JN311532Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 31 January--Osman Saleh Sabbe, chairman of the Revolution Council of the Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF], arrived in Amman today on an official visit of several days to Jordan. He will hold talks with Jordanian officials on the latest developments in Eritrea.

Sabbe stated that his visit to Jordan is part of a tour of several Arab countries to explain current developments in the Horn of Africa, particulary in Eritrea, and to clarify the situation, which threatens Middle East security. He expressed hope that he would meet with King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials to brief them on current events in Eritrea. Our objective, he added, is to gain Arab support and backing for the issue of liberation in Eritrea.

The chairman of the ELF Revolutionary Council met with Kamil ash-Sharif, minister of AWQAF, Islamic affairs and holy places, and briefed him on current events in Eritrea and his purpose in touring the Arab countries. Sabbe expressed gratitude and appreciation for Jordan's efforts to back and support the stand of the Eritrean strugglers.

The chairman of the ELF Revolutionary Council will hold a press conference on Thursday evening in the Hall of the General Islamic Conference in Amman to explain current developments in the Horn of Africa in general and Eritrea in particular.

SOVIET TOURISM DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR 8-DAY VISIT

JN301913Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Sergey Nikitin, chief of the Administration for Foreign Tourism in the Soviet Union, arrived in Amman this evening at the head of a tourist delegation on an official 8-day visit to Jordan. The guest and the delegation accompanying him will hold talks with several Jordanian officials and sign an agreement to initiate and regulate tourism between the two countries. Nikitin will visit a number of tourist and historic sites in Jordan.

The Soviet guest was received by Ghalib Barakat, minister of tourism and antiquities; the director general of tourism; and several officials in the ministry.

AD-DUSTUR CALLS FOR FIRM U.S. POSITION TOWARD ISRAEL

JN290730Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Jan 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] In their commentaries today, the Jordanian papers assert that President Anwar as-Sadat's visit to Washington and his forthcoming talks with President Carter constitute a new endeavor to save the peace talks from failure owing to Israel's intransigence because the U.S. stand is insufficient to firmly restrain Israeli ambitions.

In its commentary, the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: In light of the assurances which the Egyptian president has himself offered several times and the statement made by his foreign minister yesterday, it can be seen that Egypt's commitment to Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and its enabling the Palestinian people to determine their future will not be the key in Carter and As-Sadat's expected attempt to break the deadlock. This clearly means that the U.S. stand is the key which should be turned if this attempt is to succeed.

Prior to and during the stages of the Egyptian-Israeli dialog, the U.S. has fallen short of firmly restraining Israeli ambitions, although it has occasionally denounced certain Israeli actions, such as the settlements. This stand has encouraged Israel to continue its intransigence, threatening the chance of peace with collapse, particularly since nothing has changed in the flood of U.S. aid to Israel.

Thus the U.S. stand has remained an ineffectual influence on the decisions of the Israeli leaders. It has now become necessary for the United States to take courageous decisions to confront Israel's ambitions and force it not to squander the peace opportunity.

Concluding its commentary, AD-DUSTUR wonders: Will the forthcoming meeting in Camp David succeed in convincing President Carter to take such courageous decisions to save peace in the area and U.S. credibility in the Arab arena? This is what every person who loves justice and peace hopes for. And this is what the coming few days will reveal.

JORDAN TIMES: CAN U.S. FORCE ISRAEL TO RESPOND?

JN290703Y Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Jan 78 P 2 JN

[Editorial: "A Message for Mr Atherton"]

[Text] Mr Atherton's visit to Amman is witness to the multiple role the United States is playing in the area. We congratulate the assistant secretary of State for reports that he personally has done much to bridge the gap between Arabs and Israelis in the current negotiations.

It is uncertain how far the U.S. can push Israel against its will. Mr Begin probably believes that Israel could survive bad relations with the U.S. in the short run if need be. But we ask Mr Atherton at the very least to remind Mr Begin of the damage that Israel will do itself (let alone the Middle East and the world) if it now fails to reciprocate the magnanimous if not rashly over-trusting gesture that has come from Egypt.

The anti-settlement demonstrations in Nabulus yesterday should come as a timely warning in themselves that life in Israel will become increasingly less pleasant so long as it clings to conquered territory.

If these peace talks fail Israel can expect to be surrounded by enemies. Israeli intransigence will invite the erosion of the support which it enjoys in the U.S. and elsewhere. It will invite the emergence to power of Arabs much less anxious for peace than our present leaders. But Israel itself will become its own worst enemy.

It will harden into an isolated garrison state, frustrating itself of the very things it says it wants. Its cosmopolitan people will become increasingly racially egocentric. Its boasted democracy will increasingly be overtaken by a kind of apartheid. It will continue to bomb Lebanese villages out of existence while awaiting the Messiah of peace and it will scream ever more shrilly for security the more it undermines that very security by denying Palestinians the most basic rights.

The Arabs have indicated that they are prepared to recognize the State of Israel; the question now is if Israel will be able to recognize itself if it continues much longer to withhold lands and rights which belong to other people.

SYRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER MUSTAFA TALAS MAKES VISIT

Arrives 1 Feb

JN011305Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 1 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpt] Beirut, 1 February--Syrian Defense Minister and Deputy Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Maj Gen Mustafa Talas arrived in Beirut at noon today on a sudden visit to Lebanon.

Meets With Officials

NC011925Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpts] A working meeting took place this evening between President Ilyas Sarkis and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss. They were later joined by Fu'ad Butrus, the minister for foreign and expatriates' affairs and defense, and then by Minister of Health Dr Ibrahim Shu'aytu. This meeting preceded the cabinet meeting which is still in progress.

In the meeting which preceded the cabinet session, developments at the Lebanese and Arab level were discussed. Minister Butrus reviewed the discussions held with Maj Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Syrian Army and Armed Forces and minister of defense, during his visit today with a military delegation to the Lebanese Ministry of Defense.

Today Maj Gen Mustafa Talas visited Lebanese Defense Minister Fu-ad Butrus at the Ministry of Defense and the army command in Al-Yarzi. He also met with Army Commander Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri. The discussions dealt with military and security matters, according to Minister Butrus, and with the problems of achieving security and stability in Lebanon, according to a statement issued by Major General Talas.

Meets Butrus, Addresses Troops

JN012026Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpts] Lebanon--Maj Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the army and armed forces and defense minister, accompanied by Staff Brig Nasr-ad-Din Muhammad Nasir, director of the Political Department, today paid an inspection visit to the Syrian forces operating within the Arab deterrent force in fraternal Lebanon.

Upon arrival in fraternal Lebanon, General Talas paid a friendly visit to Fu'ad Butrus, Lebanese minister of foreign affairs and defense. He then held a meeting with Butrus which included a number of Syrian and Lebanese officers. General Talas paid a similar visit to Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri, commander of the Lebanese Army.

General Talas then met with our Soldiers. He delivered a speech in which he hailed our heroic fighters on behalf of President Hafiz al-Asad. General Talas spoke about the dimensions of the capitulatory plot being implemented by the ruler of the Egyptian regime. He also spoke about As-Sadat's capitulatory and treasonous trip to occupied Jerusalem. General Talas referred to the attempts being made by the enemies of our nation to strike against Syria's steadfastness. He affirmed that the masses of the Arab nation will place all their potentials and resources at the service of Syria, which is confronting the Zionist enemy.

REPORT ON U.S. COMMITMENT TO SECURITY OF ARAB GULF

NC020900Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0750 GMT 2 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 2 February--The Lebanese magazine AL-HAWADITH has reported that information has been leaked about a secret report prepared by U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown in which he affirms the seriousness of the U.S. commitment to the security of the gulf.

The magazine in this Friday's issue says that this information has been leaked at a time when there is still an uproar over the U.S. statement issued some 2 months ago describing the gulf as a security area vital for U.S. stratgy. The magazine adds that the comments criticizing the statement and accusing the United States of interfering in the affairs of others have become more acute following the leakage of the information about Brown's report. The magazine says that the report is entitled: "A War and a Half-War." The report says that it is imperative for the United States to have sufficient forces to simultaneously halt any surprise Soviet offensive in Europe and to dispatch military expeditions to settle a local conflict in an area such as the gulf area.

The magazine says that Brown recommended, in connection with events which might suddenly erupt in Europe or in the gulf area, that the various armed services reorganize their forces by establishing units geared toward rapid intervention.

PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE REPORTEDLY WITHDRAWS FROM TYRE

NC020815Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 2 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 2 February--The Kuwaiti daily AS-SIYASAH today quoted a Palestinian source, whom it describes as close to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, as saying that the Palestinian resistance has withdrawn from Tyre to inside the camps and that it will also withdraw from Ad-Damur in order not to give an opportunity to those who want to drag the resistance into a battle.

The source added that the battle of the resistance has not yet ended in Lebanon but that it has taken a new shape because the resistance has no place to operate from other than Lebanon. The paper quotes the source as accusing the Lebanese front of working to drag the resistance into peripheral battles with the Moslems in Sidon, Tyre and Beirut and with the Shi'ite Moslems in southern Lebanon.

SUSPECTS ARRESTED FOLLOWING EXPLOSION IN BEIRUT

NC011255Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Feb 78 NC

[1 February statement issued by the command of the Arab deterrent forces]

[Excerpts] At about 1015 on 1 February an explosive charge went off at the junction of the Martyrs' Square and Al-Arz Street. The explosion resulted in some damage to the adjoining shops. A number of citizens sustained slight injuries.

The Arab deterrent forces immediately intervened, cordoned off the location where the incident took place and started a search for the perpetrators. They also arrested a number of suspects. The suspects have been handed over to the internal security forces, who have arrived at the site of the apparent crime and have started investigating.

ALGERIA

OPPOSITION LEADER SEES FALL OF BOUMEDIENE REGIME

LD0114llY Paris L'AURORE in French 27 Jan 78 p 3 LD

[Henri Surugue report on 26 January interview with 'Algerian opposition leader' Ali Yahia: "Majority of Algerians Do Not Want Boumediene"]

[Excerpts] "Socialism in Algeria has been distorted and has lost all meaning for the masses, who are turning away from it. It would be better to discuss progress with them for that is what they need. More than 2 million people are unemployed in this unfortunate country, even more are partially unemployed and the numbers are growing by 250,000 each year.

"Wages are very low and strikes, which are numerous despite the formidable police system, are brutally suppressed. Deep down, Algeria rejects Boumediene. It would take just one small incident for the whole population to swarm into the streets of Algiers and revolt. The movement would quickly spread through the whole country."

Ali Yahia, better known as Richid, who founded the United Front for Algerian Algeria on 16 June 1976--a movement which is a catalyst for all opposition to the tyrant--painted this gloomy picture of his country for me yesterday and told me of his hopes for rapid and sweeping changes. This young lawyer is now full of confidence and his movement has a firm foothold in France as well as in Algeria. He told me: "Boumediene thinks he is at the peak of his power but he has never before been so close to his downfall."

Now his "manifesto" of 16 June 1976 has spread considerably. He gave me examples: The movement has won over almost all of Kabylia, and we must remember that half of the Kabyle people live in France and this makes propaganda considerably easier. The Chaovis (who live in the Azores) support our movement. The majority of Mozabites now support Berberism. Some 80 percent of Algiers is now Berberophone.

These facts are significant for anyone who understands the Algerian mentality. But, I asked him, how could a clash possibly take place? There are the army, police and administration to contend with.

[Answer] The army is composed of privateers, but all the officers are hostile. It has one foot in the government camp and the other in the opposition camp. It is waiting for the right moment to seize power. It will make its choice so as not to be swept away with Boumediene.

The police force is torn by contradictory opinions. It knows that economic and social deterioration will get worse. The most recent demonstrations by dock workers, railroad workers and streetcar workers were serious. Only military security is firmly maintained.

In the administration the highest officials smile at the government. At the moment they are using their positions to get rich. They are accumulating millions but are putting this wealth in French and Swiss banks.

If you are friendly with a deputy, minister or colonel you can get anything you want. Nevertheless, these men expect things to change. They realize that this situation cannot last much longer and that Boumediene's days are numbered.

[Question] And yet he had a majority in the elections.

[Answer] Of course, everyone voted, even I voted to abstain and I live in France. The names on the electoral register were merely read in the polling stations and the teller replied "has voted." It was as simple as that.

[Question] What was behind the recent anti-French demonstrations in Algiers?

[Answer] The people who chanted slogans were indoctrinated, trucked in and paid to do it. For the majority of them it was just an entertaining day out. They had a day off work and still got paid. Believe me, the Algerians have long since gotten over their anti-French feelings. If France opened its doors Algeria would be deserted. Giscard d'Estaing is right when he speaks of a fundamental rapprochement between our two peoples.

[Question] How much time do you think Boumediene has?

[Answer] At the moment his sole aim is to make the masses forget their essential problems and their social misery. He is busy organizing "summits" and strutting about the Arab capitals. These are the only regions where people still take him seriously. His reign in Algeria is coming to an end.

LIBYA

EGYPTIAN REQUEST FOR U.S. ARMS CRITICIZED

LD011542Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Mansur Rashid al-Kikhiya, Jamahiriyah UN delegate, has criticized efforts by the ruler of Egypt to obtain U.S. weapons. This, he said, constituted a threat to peace in Africa.

Yesterday in a letter to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim brother Al-Kikhiya pointed out that the Egyptian ruler requested U.S. arms not for use against the Israeli enemy, but because--as he put it--he had responsibilities all over Africa. This is regarded as an open threat to the peace and security of Africa, and as interference in the internal affairs of the African countries. The request is also a violation of the UN and OAU charters.

MOROCCO

LE MATIN: U.S. MUST PRESSURE ISRAEL FOR PEACE MOVES

LD011437Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 25 Jan 78 pp 1, 5 LD

[Ahmed Alaoui editorial: "Proof--It Is up to the Americans"]

[Excerpts] President as-Sadat has done everything that could be expected of an Arab head of state and that such a head of state could do. He has shown the whole world where right and injustice lie, who are the aggressors and the victims, the warmongers and the supporters of peace.

By paying tribute to As-Sadat the whole world has acknowledged that the Arabs are the supporters of peace and that the Israelis are merely warmongers. Those who gave unconditional support to the Zionist state now feel that they are in the wrong and Israel's position is thus weakened.

The Zionist state should therefore find itself more isolated than ever and with no argument to justify its attitude. This problem, which until recently was of a rather ambiguous nature because of the way the situation was portrayed by the Zionist propaganda machine, is now revealed correctly: Everyone has been able to absorb the truth that good faith is on the Arab side and bad faith is on the Israeli side.

The all-important result of this situation is that it is now the Americans' move. Without the United States Israel would have ceased to exist long ago. It has given the Zionist state constant political, military, financial and economic aid, and without this aid, which was particularly in evidence during the Ramadan war, it is certain that Israel would have ceased to exist. It is therefore up to America to assume its responsibilities and say whether it wants to preserve the sumpathy and friendship which it has built up. If it wants to preserve its own interests in the Arab world, it must take the necessary steps to persuade its protege to embark unswervingly on the road to peace.

ALGERIAN CLANDESTINE PAPER CRITICIZES REGIME

LD050935Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 24 Dec 77 p 3 LD

[MAP report on article published in Algerian underground newspaper LIBERTE ET DEMOCRATIE: "An Offhand Manner, Tirades, Reversals and Lack of Respect for Joint Decisions Have Been Features of Algerian Diplomacy"]

[Text] Algiers--after publishing the "December 1976 document"--a document which has opened the way for a broad democratic opinion movement of dissent and open opposition to the Algiers regime--the resistance against Colonel Boumediene's dictatorship waged on Algerian territory itself has recently started publishing an underground press organ called LIBERTE ET DEMOCRATIE, named after the underground movement itself.

Introducing the newspaper, whose second edition has now been published, the movement's liaison committee stated:

"The newspaper LIBERTE ET DEMOCRATIE, which is being published in Algeria under difficult circumstances and with modest means, brings new hope and through its already large following it strengthens the Algerian people's struggle against the dictatorship. But first and foremost it represents a concrete emanation of an act of faith in the democratic future of our country, whose right to development is in our eyes inseparable from its right to freedom and democracy. The paper's publication, orientation and policy are naturally in keeping with the general pattern of the joint struggle waged throughout the world by forces of freedom, democracy and progress against dictatorships and a system which negates man and his dignity."

In the "Diplomatic Chronicle" column in its second (November 1977) issue, under the headline "Perjury and Irresponsibility", LIBERTE ET DEMOCRATIE emphasizes the present isolation of Boumediene's diplomacy, a consequence of the policy of "offhandedness, tirades, reversals and lack of respect for joint decisions" now pursued by the Algiers regime:

"Before and during the national liberation war, the solidarity of Arab peoples and states played an important role in our struggle for independence. Since it became free, Algeria has naturally taken its due place within the Arab League. It was accepted that Algerian diplomacy would participate in league activities and, especially, bring to it new concepts of renewal in accordance with the interest of the Arab world, in particular with respect to the liberation of Palestine. This was the main objective of the National Liberation Movement and its revolution."

"A renewal was what the National Liberation Movement hoped for and aimed at but, in fact, the foreign policy pursued by Boumediene and his heir-apparent Bouteflika has only led to our country's isolation within the league.

"Offhandedness, tirades, reversals and lack of respect for joint decisions have been features of current Algerian diplomacy. Indeed, it would be sufficient to count the number of meetings of the league Council of Ministers--a body of fundamental importance--at which Bouteflika himself was present on the on fingers of one hand, to demonstrate the erratic and irresponsible nature of the regime's diplomacy.

"This show of scorn and contempt for this organization--which, even though imperfect, has the advantage of existing and being the only organic link among Arab peoples and states--belies statements and slogans delivered by the regime and its drab press.

"The present isolation of Boumediene diplomacy is a logical consequence of this Arab policy. Faced with well-deserved diplomatic isolation, the regime had to do its utmost to prevent any discussion of the problem of west Sahara during the 12-14 November 1977 meeting of the league Council of Foreign Ministers in Tunis. The presence of our ghost-like foreign minister was noted at that meeting only 2 days before the conclusion of the deliberations."

"And yet, because of its essentially Arab and Maghreb nature, the problem of west Sahara could naturally have been discussed and easily resolved at the meeting. The dictatorial regime decided otherwise, because it feared that the foreign ministers who had been present at the 1977 Rabat summit of heads of state might remind the Algerian delegation of the following sentence included in a recorded speech delivered by Boumediene during that very summit: 'I am not only prepared to help Morocco and Mauritania to liberate Sahara, I am also at their disposal--and Algeria, I repeat, states this solemnly to help Morocco also to liberate Ceuta, Melilla and the islands connected with them.'

"This solemn statement can be equaled only by the perjury committed by a dictatorship which, over the years, has in fact turned Algeria's foreign policy into a close reflection of a domestic policy marked by irresponsibility and contempt.

"The present attempts to play a role on the Arab stage on the occasion of the Egyptian president's visit to Israel, by again claiming in a 20 November communique to be a champion of the unity and defense of the Arab world, represent yet another alibi used by the regime. They have aggravated the division of Arab peoples and states without in any way rendering more credible the opportunist action of a regime which has been incapable of either pursuing a national unity policy or of promoting a policy of Maghreb and Arab unity."

TUNISIA

MINISTRY ANNOUNCES OFFICIAL DEATH TOLL IN INCIDENTS

LD012156Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] A statement from the Ministry of Public Health says that in response to the biased claims by the mass media and the various speculations about the number of last week's victims, the Ministry of Public Health announces that the number of registered deaths in all hospitals in the country related to the painful events that began on 26 January are as follows: Thursday, 26 January--43 deaths; Friday, 27 January--none; Saturday, 28 January--1 death; Sunday, 29 January--2 deaths; Monday, 30 January--none; total--46 deaths.

AIDES, CRITICS OF TUNIS GOVERNMENT DISCUSS RIOT

LD0113llY Paris LE MONDE in French 31 Jan 78 p 7 LD

[Dispatch from special correspondent Jean-Pierre Langellier: "Government Intends To Regain Control of Trade Union Center"]

[Excerpts] The Tunisian leaders are attempting to show that the general strike of 26 January is the culmination, the "climax" of political agitation carried out over many months by the Tunisian General Federation of Labor [UGTT]. In particular, this is the analysis of Mohamed Sayah, leader of the Destourian Socialist Party [PSD] and one of the regime's strongmen. Recounting the history of the relations between the UGTT and the government, Mr Sayah told us on 29 January: "We had presumptive evidence for quite a long time. From the beginning of last August ASH-SHA'B, the trade union newspaper, began to criticize the government virulently. Then there was a whole series of work stoppages and demonstrations in several provincial towns--Scusse, Belja, Mateur--and then the slogan of a general strike in education 16 November."

While acknowledging that three minor incidents at the end of December--in Sousse, Tozeur and Kairouan--caused clashes between UGTT and PSD militants (a party official has, furthermore, been penalized), Mr Sayah believes that "no precise demand justified the 26 January general strike." On the contrary, he stresses, the party had "displayed moderation" in not expelling Mr Achour despite his resignation 10 January from the Political Bureau and the Central Committee.

Was it necessary to allow the troops to intervene so ruthlessly? Mr Sayah was categorical: "To leave the capital in the situation in which it found itself Thursday morning would have been to accept the end of the state's independence. Political rivalry is natural, but we cannot allow certain people to establish alliances with foreign countries, or Tunisians to let themselves be manipulated by non-Tunisians." These remarks obviously refer to Libya's behavior. However, officially the authorities have not questioned the Tripoli government.

It is clear that the current political developments are strengthening the position of all those within the government team who feared a more complete democratization of institutions and were thereby alarming the advocates of a liberalization of the system. Thus, according to former Minister Ahmed Mestiri, along with Hassib ben Amar is the driving force of the "democratic socialist" movement: "It is as if the supporters of the strongarm approach wanted to find a posteriori a justification for the measures which they have taken." He believes that the recent riots mark "evidence of the failure of a policy and even of a system."

By causing bloodshed, he told us, they are deepening the rift between the population and the regime. Mr Mestiri disputes the official version of events, in particular the toll of the clashes which, according to him, was substantially higher than the official figure of 42 dead. Although it is difficult to verify it, credence is attached to this last allegation by many observers, some of whom put forward the figure of 150 victims.

For his part, Mohamed Masmoudi, the former foreign minister who returned to his country in December after 4 years of exile, told us Sunday: "What is happening at present no longer seems like Tunisia to me. It is as though we were walking upside down. They will not succeed in representing Habib Achour as a terrorist agitator. He has proved his sense of responsibility in the past. He is a worthy and proud man." He added: "Blood has been shed during an intervention by the army. That will leave its mark."

BEGIN TELLS CHRISTIANS ISRAEL WANTS PEACE, JUSTICE

TA012009Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 1 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said that everything is open to negotiation between us and the Arabs apart from the destruction of Israel. The prime minister made these remarks at a world convention of Evangelical Christians now being held in the Diplomat Hotel in Jerusalem. Mr Begin added that Israel wants peace. It prays for peace with security for our nation, and it wants to live with its neighbors in justice and equality of rights.

As-Sadat's Demands 'Impossible'

TA020625Y Jerusalem POST in English 2 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By POST reporter Haim Shapiro]

[Text] Speaking to one of the most enthusiastic audiences he has faced recently, Prime Minister Menahem Begin last night termed "impossible" Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's demands for a total Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders and for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

As delegates to the Christian Evangelical international congress for the peace of Jerusalem uttered amen and brust into frequent applause, the prime minister said that Israel again possessed its land "by the right of divine providence." He added that the pre-six-day war demarcation lines were indefensible and had resulted in the loss of thousands of lives through terror attacks.

A Palestinian state, he said, would soon turn into the central Soviet base in the area. The distance from Odessa to Bethlehem by Russian super-cargo planes was only two hours, he told the 500 participants--Christians who believe Israel is the fulfilment of biblical prophecy.

"Everything is negotiable except the destruction of Israel," Begin said. "No man or woman will advise us to put ourselves in danger."

Instead, he offered "peace with security," the peace plan which he had presented to President as-Sadat. "We believe all men of good will throughout the world will support us," he said, noting that President Carter and others of standing in the U.S. had praised his peace plan.

But he added an appeal for renewed negotiations. "Let us sit around the table," he said. "If we do we will come to true understanding and a lasting peace."

He concluded with a call for the free world to remain united. But his appeal, "let us stand together," was taken literally by the participants who immediately rose en masse. He repeated, "please be seated, let us stand together."

Today the congress delegates are to go to the western wall, where they will publicly affirm their belief that Jerusalem must never again be divided. Tomorrow they will participate in a "ceremony of affirmation" at Masada.

BEGIN, SHARON MEET WITH AMBASSADOR LEWIS

TA012022Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin met this evening, in his Jerusalem office, with the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis. At the end of the meeting, which lasted about an hour and a quarter, Ambassador Lewis said that at the meeting with the prime minister he had reported on his visit to Jordan last Saturday and on the meeting with King Husayn, and had also given up-to-date information about the mission of Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton to Cairo.

Ambassador Lewis confirmed that this evening he had received explanations from the prime minister about the archeological delegation to Shilo and Israel's settlement policy. Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon was also present at the meeting between the prime minister and the U.S. ambassador.

BEGIN SAYS SHILO SITE NOT PERMANENT SETTLEMENT

TA020630Y Jerusalem POST in English 2 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said last night that the controversial Shilo archaeological site in Samaria was not intended to be a new permanent settlement.

Begin made the remark at a meeting with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis. The meeting, which apparently was overshadowed by President Jimmy Carter's description of the site as an "illegal settlement," was attended by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon.

"I came at the prime minister's invitation," Lewis told reporters after the meeting, adding that Begin had clarified a number of questions about the work at Shilo and three camps set up nearby.

Sharon said that three camps would be settled within three months but they would remain military outposts. "That's exactly what was decided and it won't be more than that," he said.

Sharon maintained that the government has not decided to settle Shilo, adding that only archaeological digs have been permitted there.

Dayan, meanwhile, denied reports that he and Begin had promised Washington that no new settlements would be approved in Judaea and Samaria.

Dayan was replying to a parliamentary question by Zalman Shoval (Likud-La'am)--a question presumably initiated by Dayan himself. His reply was as follows:

"In my talk with President Carter in Washington in September, I told him that in my opinion the policy of all future (Israeli) governments, like that of the governments in the past, will be to continue settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

"I said, at the same time, that in view of the special situation of intensive peace negotiations now being conducted with the Arab states, the settlements in the coming months would be organized in the framework of military camps.

"My remarks were made on behalf of the prime minister."

SHARON INTERVIEWED ON ACTIVITIES AT SHILO

TA012055Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The ministerial committee for settlement affairs decided at its meeting today to establish four moshavim in Galilee in accordance with the settlement program being put into operation. According to the agenda of the session, the committee was also to have discussed the carrying out of settlements in Judaea and Samaria, but it did not deal with this. The issue of settlement in Judaea and Samaria has for the last few days seen serving, as is well known, as the subject of diplomatic contacts between the United States and Israel, against the background of what is happening in Shilo.

Our correspondent Yig'al Goren today asked Minister Ari'el Sharon, the chairman of the ministerial committee for settlement affairs, whether the settlement in Shilo was established in accordance with a cabinet decision. [begin videotape recording]

[Sharon] Shilo. No settlement has been established and there was no cabinet decision on the establishment of a settlement in Shilo, and Shilo was permitted for archaeological excavation work on the site of ancient Shilo. The people who are there came to do this work and that is what happened on the issue of Shilo.

[Question] At any rate, is that place going, in the course of time, to become a permanent settlement in the context of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria? Or are conditions there not suitable, or, for other reasons, will there not be a settlement there?

[Answer] That settlement, as I said, has not been recognized as a settlement, was not decided on as a settlement. All that has happened was that it was made possible to carry out archeological excavations there just as archeological digs exist elsewhere in Israel.

[Question] At any rate, with regard to Judaea and Samaria, are you satisfied at this stage with the speed of the work in the area?

[Answer] I do not want to comment on this issue at the moment. [end videotape recording]

SHILO GROUP OF SETTLERS TO CLEAN, MAP SITE

TA020821Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 2 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The group of settlers in Shilo does not need a license from the Antiquities Department [of the Education Ministry] since the department is authorized to give licenses only within the boundaries of the green line. This has been learned by our correspondent Aytan Almog from the Education Ministry. Our correspondent has also learned that the settlers in Shilo will not be preoccupied with the archeological digs themselves but with cleaning and mapping the site and the area surrounding it.

ISRAEL SAID TO WANT EGYPT PROPOSAL ON SETTLEMENTS

TA012141Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 1 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff, HA'AREZ correspondent in Cairo]

[Excerpt] Upon the resumption of the Military Committee deliberations, Israel announced that it will not settle for a negative Egyptian answer to the Israeli proposal regarding the settlements and airfields and asks the Egyptian side to submit its own counterproposal so that it will be possible to continue the discussions and reach an agreement on this matter.

The opening session was preceded by a private talk of an hour between Defense Minister Weizman and Egyptian War Minister al-Jamasi. The talk dealt with the subjects which the committee will discuss in the coming days.

Israel wants first to discuss the questions on which there are more chances of reaching a compromise and making progress, such as demilitarization, the defense arrangements and the dates of withdrawal, and only then to return to the more difficult questions: the settlements and the airfields. The Egyptians, in contrast, want to open exactly with the question of settlements.

It seems that the Israeli approach stems not only from the desire to make immediate progress on questions which seem "easier" but primarily and foremost because of restrictive instructions given Mr Weizman by the government. He is not carrying with him any new proposal on the fate of the settlements in the Sinai. He is not allowed to make proposals concerning the exchange of territories or border modifications that may, perhaps, solve the question of settlements. Nonetheless, Weizman will not reject such a proposal if it is made by Egypt. In such a case, the proposal will be brought up for discussion and decision in the government, and it will be discussed in the Military Committee only in the second round of talks.

Israel's position is that Egypt should first submit a detailed proposal of its own on the matter of the Israeli settlements, as can be recalled, Israel proposed that the settlements remain where they are, in an area that will be under Egyptian sovereignty but will have a local administration and defense and will be under Israeli jurisdiction. Israel's argument is that it is not enough to answer with a total no. The rules of the negotiations oblige Egypt to submit a counterproposal. Egypt's answer on this matter is a key question for the future of the negotiations about Sinai. If the Egyptians comply with this request there are chances for progress and maybe even for a compromise. Observers here, however, doubt if a detailed answer will be given before As-Sadat's visit to the United States. The Egyptians hope that President Carter will exert heavier pressure on Israel on the matter of the settlements and so they will be spared a compromise with Israel on this matter.

HAZOFE: NO WRITTEN PROTEST ON SETTLEMENTS RECEIVED

TA011338Y Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 1 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By HAZOFE political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] So far, no written protest from President Carter on the issue of settlements in Judaea and Samaria has been received by the prime minister's office. Only the U.S. Embassy has asked for clarifications within the framework of the current contacts between it and the prime minister's office.

The report received on President Carter's remarks on the matter gives the impression that the President wants to pacify the problem and that it is only the State Department circles that are trying to overblow the matter by leaks. There is no atmosphere of tension between Israel and the United States on this.

MA'ARIV SEES 'CONFUSION' ON SETTLEMENT ISSUE

TA011600Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Feb 78 pp 1,2 TA

[By 'Ido Dissentshik, MA'ARIV correspondent in Washington]

[Text] Israel and the United States are now trying to clarify--through diplomatic channels--what was defined by a certain Israeli source as "a legitimate confusion" regarding the commitment given or not given by Israel to President Carter to avoid establishing new civilian settlements in the territories.

Israeli and U.S. sources in Washington agree that there are two versions on this matter. The U.S. version is that Foreign Minister Dayan promised President Carter, when he visited Washington in September, that Israel would not set up new civilian settlements in the territories for a year at least. Mr. Dayan added that new settlers would join the existing settlements or would be allowed to act only within the framework of IDF camps and under the army's auspices.

The other version--that of Israel--is different. According to this, Dayan did not make any commitment to the Americans. He simply informed Carter that Israel would not set up new civilian settlements "in the course of the year" and that the new settlers would be settled either in existing settlements or in IDF camps.

Now the Israelis are claiming that by saying "in the course of the year" Dayan meant 1977 but that regrettably the Americans understood him to mean an entire year.

The result is that U.S. Government officials are now accusing Israel of failing to honor a commitment it had made to the U.S. President. The U.S. sources say that, when talking to President Carter about the problem of settlements, Dayan did not voluntarily detail the Israeli political lines. He only answered questions asked him by the President. Therefore, it was a commitment that was apparently "excorted" from Israel and not exactly information brought by Dayan.

Israeli sources say that Israel did not commit itself to anything but only proposed "limited compromise between internal pressures and Carter's wishes." Israeli sources also said that it was clear that Dayan was talking only of 1977.

Israeli sources remark that the Americans do not blame Israel for "betraying trust" and that the entire affair is only "legitimate confusion.

DAYAN SAYS U.S. MAINTAINS NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT

TA011608Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 1 Feb 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said this evening to the Knesset Finance Committee that the United States is maintaining the negotiations in Egypt through artificial respiration, but that this does not necessarily mean that the negotiations will not continue. Mr Dayan, who was speaking to the Finance Committee during the debate on the budget for his ministry, also pointed out that at first it appeared that the Egyptians were accepting Israel's peace program, but that it now appears that this is not so.

ARENS WANTS NO WITHDRAWAL FROM RAFAH, AIRBASES

TA011635Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Feb 78 p 3 TA

[By Mordekhay Elqan]

[Text] "I am of the opinion that withdrawals from the regions of the Rafah approaches and the air force bases in this area and new Eilat are beyond the reasonable line of risks that we can undertake even if we are on the way to an agreement with Egypt. The risk is also that if Israel remains exposed because of the withdrawal, this may constitute a temptation to violate the agreement with Israel. This was stated yesterday by the head of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Prof Moshe Arens, at a rally of members of the Herut movement held in Savyon, on the occasion of the opening of a branch of the party there.

Professor Arens explained that the Israeli Government agreed to the resumption of the Military Committee deliberations in Cairo despite the fact that the deliberations of the Political Committee in Jerusalem have not been resumed "in order to keep open the channels of communication with Egypt."

He also said that he learned about the Israeli peace plan only after it had been submitted to U.S. President Carter on the eve of the prime minister's departure for talks with President as-Sadat in Ismailia.

"In contrast," he said, "the negotiations with Egypt are today followed not only by the government and the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, but also by the coalition factions."

Professor Arens expressed his opinion that the Soviet Union does not desire the establishment of peace in the Middle East and may make efforts to foil the peace-making process between Egypt and Israel.

In reply to a question regarding the appointment of the new IDF chief of staff, Maj Gen Refa'el Eytan, he said: "In the opinion of the defense minister and prime minister, and I am also ready to join my opinion to theirs, Refa'el Eytan is the best man we have, either for peacetime or, God forbid, wartime."

GUSH EMUNIM SAYS FAMILIES WAITING TO ENTER HARES

TA020621Y Jerusalem POST in English 2 Feb 78 p 2 TA

[By POST political reporter Joshu'a Brilliant]

[Text] Tel Aviv--Gush Emunim complained yesterday that the government is slow in allowing civilians to move into Hares in Samaria. It also said that it did not intend to settle Tapu'ah and Silat Az-Zahr, where military outposts were established recently.

Gush Emunim's political secretary, Gershon Shafat, told the Jerusalem POST that 30 immigrant families from the Soviet Union are waiting in Elqana (formerly Mashah) for permission to move into Hares. Some 300 families of employees of the military industries are also waiting for permission to move, he said. Although the government claims the site is not ready, Shafat insists the delay is due to "technical reasons" only. (The POST learned yesterday that there have been no budgetary allocations for construction at the new sites.) Shafat said the government should find settlers for Tapu'ah and Silat az-Zahr.

In a separate development, the ministerial committee on settlements and world Zionist organization yesterday approved the establishment this year of four new moshavim in the Galilee. Two industrial moshavim will be in the Tefen area and two agricultural moshavim will be in the Zalmon region.

AL-JAMASI DENIES AS-SADAT PROMISE ON SINAI

TA011713Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 1 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff, HA'AREZ correspondent in Cairo]

[Text] Egyptian War Minister al-Jamasi said in a talk with several members of the Israeli delegation that it is not true that President as-Sadat had promised the Israeli prime minister that the Egyptian Army would not cross the Mitla-Jiddi line and that the entire area east of it will be demilitarized.

As may be recalled, Mr Begin, in his speech at the Knesset, said that he was surprised that the Egyptian general headquarters proposed in the plan it submitted to the Military Committee that the demilitarized zone would begin about 40 km from the political border in Sinai. According to Mr Begin, this proposal stands in clear opposition to what he heard from As-Sadat during a tete-a-tete they had in the King David Hotel.

After Begin's speech the subject was raised before the Egyptians by the Israelis. Al-Jamasi was the man who referred to the subjects. According to him, no such promise was given to Mr Begin, and the Israeli prime minister is going too far in his interpretations on this matter. According to him, the Egyptian president did not understand the talk this way. It seems that what he meant to say was that even if the Egyptian Army remained west of the Mitla-Jiddi line in the main, this did not mean that the Egyptians agreed that the entire area east of this line would be totally demilitarized. Nevertheless, Al-Jamasi says that the subject of demilitarization is open for discussion and negotiation and that each party can present his position. The Egyptian delegation intends to demand that certain forces of the Egyptian Army will be able to be stationed east of the Mitla-Jiddi line, especially since most of the Sinai population is located east of this line.

MILITARY DELEGATION TO RETURN AS PLANNED

TA011934Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 1 Feb 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The delegation to the debates of the Military Committee will return to Israel tomorrow as expected at the end of a 2-day session. It is hard to point to any particular successes, says our correspondent in Cairo, Roni Dani'el, but it is also hard to point to any failure in the talks. [begin recording]

[Dani'el] The At-Tahirah Palace will be deserted tomorrow. Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and the team for the talks, including Major General Tamir and the people from his team, are going back to Israel tomorrow at the end of 2 days of debates in Cairo. It is still too soon to sum things up because not everything is known or clear. But over these 2 days laborious work has been done to clarify various points at dispute, in an attempt to find solutions. This has been a hard and practical debate, and it is difficult to say that many successes can be chalked up to its credit, but no breakdown or a closing of doors occurred. The two delegations are parting tomorrow with the feeling that the 2 days of debates were just the beginning of a long haul and that there is a basis for a continuation of the talks.

During days of debate neither side changed its well-known positions. The Egyptians are continuing stubborn opposition to the presence of Israeli settlements in Sinai and the same goes for the matter of the airfields. Israel is continuing to demand both of them, and the issue of the transfer of territories on a mutual basis was not put forward at all. In fact, during the 2 days of debates practically all the issues to be debated were mentioned. They were checked in a free and open discussion in which the other parties to the committee, apart from the ministers, took part.

Tomorrow As-Sadat leaves for a visit to Washington and for a meeting with President Carter. The military talks in Cairo will be one of the topics of the talk between the two presidents and because of this no renewal of the talks in Cairo is to be expected in any forum whatsoever before As-Sadat returns to Cairo. It is not at all inconceivable that on this date the Cabinet of Israel will also have to make new decisions because further approaches were tried out here in the talks.

The atmosphere during the discussions was very practical, with the parties to the discussion already familiar with each other, and this, too, is something of value in discussions of this type. It is not yet clear whether the representatives will meet for another meeting tomorrow morning. This will, as far as can be seen, be decided at this evening's session, which opened about half an hour ago.

The Israeli journalists are also returning although two or three will stay on, but the coming days will be a period of waiting and [word indistinct] for both sides, for the As-Sadat-Carter meeting will have a decisive effect on the continuation of the discussions and the chances of finding a solution. Roni Dani'el, Cairo. [end recording]

Israeli Team to Remain in Cairo

TA020627Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Israel's military delegation is due to return from Cairo today after Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman has another face-to-face meeting with War Minister General al-Jamasi. Weizman will also go to the Cairo Museum. No date has been fixed for the continuation of the Military Committee talks but an Israeli team headed by Colonel Limon is staying on in Cairo. An Egyptian military spokesman said the two sides would coordinate about holding another meeting.

Israeli Help in Military Training

TA012028Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 1 Feb 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Tomorrow the Israeli delegation will return from Cairo and our correspondent reports that, among the other proposals discussed there, a suggestion was put forward according to which the IDF will be prepared to contribute from its know-how and past experience to the training of the Egyptian Army in recruiting its reserve forces. Commentators think that if this proposal, which has already been published abroad, is accepted, the Egyptians will be able to reduce their army and thin it out, as Israel is requesting. Beni Rom reports.

[Rom--live] So far, the opinion here in Tel Aviv is that the Military Committee talks were a repeat performance of the previous talks in the first stage. Commentators feel that, in spite of the many issues still at dispute, both sides, both the Israelis and the Egyptians, are trying to prevent a breakdown in the talks.

The prevalent evaluation is that there is understanding on the part of the Egyptians of Israel's problems of principle on the issue of security. However, the problem is that there is still a situation of lack of confidence and also contrasting viewpoints and opinions from the military-strategic aspect: about distances, military depth, settlements and also the presence of military forces, their reinforcement or limitation. Israel is trying to bring to the top of the order of preferences in the debates the maintenance of the basic vital security conditions which are essential for Israel and their preservation, that is, the preservation of those principles. Today they are stressing that the military views of Israel and Egypt are different and contradictory.

Referring to the issue of the territories and strategic depth, it can be said that, in spite of advanced development of weapons for long distances, ground forces still have a particularly great importance. Experts are underlining the fact that missiles and air attacks harm the public from the aspect of morale but cannot be decisive in total war. Today the predominant view is that there is no possibility of transferring the military model if it is stationed as such in Sinai by Egypt, to the eastern front. Regarding that same model, for example, it has been said that the buffer zone, with military forces withdrawn, according to Israel's proposal, must be of a breadth of about 7 km.

DAVAR COMMENTS ON PURPOSE OF DAYAN'S U.S. VISIT

TA011226Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yehoshu'a Tadmor]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will depart for the United States next week, very close to the conclusion of President as-Sadat's visit there.

Officially it has been reported that the foreign minister will visit the United States on behalf of the [Israeli] bonds. However, observers in Jerusalem assume that upon arrival in Washington, Minister Dayan will hold political talks with President Carter, Secretary of State Vance and the president's adviser for national security, Zbigniew Brzezinski.

The assumption is that the Americans will report to Dayan about the content of the talks with President as-Sadat. The foreign minister will also want to give a push to the Israeli informational campaign in the wake of the expected assault by the Egyptian president on U.S. public opinion.

Two documents were handed yesterday to the Egyptian foreign minister by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Atherton. These documents include the three clauses of the agenda and the declaration of principles intended to make possible the resumption of the Political Committee deliberations.

In the past the prime minister, the foreign minister and other Israeli officials have remarked that agreement had already been reached on five out of the seven clauses on the eve of talks. The sixth clause was under discussion and the seventh, and most problematic, on the Palestinian issue, deals with their "legitimate rights" and Egypt's demand to have the subject of self-determination more clearly worded. It was finally agreed, in the discussions with the U.S. delegation, to rely on President Carter's remarks in Aswan that the "Palestinians will take part in the determination of their fate."

As of yesterday no Egyptian reaction had been received to the documents passed through the U.S. Embassy and it is assumed in Jerusalem that the Egyptian foreign minister gave them to As-Sadat for perusal and added the oral explanations he had received from Atherton.

Senior officials in the Israeli Government yesterday expressed the hope that President as-Sadat will react positively to the declaration of principles and will not again reopen the entire matter, a move that would cause a long delay in the Political Committee deliberations. Nonetheless, it is reasonable to assume that As-Sadat will try to convince President Carter, in his talks with him, that pressure should be exerted in order to reach a clearer formulation of the clauses dealing with the issue of "the rights of the Palestinians" and will also ask the President's aid on the clause dealing with Israel's withdrawal.

Senior governmental circles in Jerusalem do not show excessive concern about As-Sadat's intentions to influence Carter into putting pressure on Israel. Carter's positions on the disputed clauses are known and no flexibility or sudden erosion are apparently expected in them. The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee yesterday held a meeting with the participation of Foreign Minister Dayan. The foreign minister reported on Israel's proposal for the declaration of principles that was passed to Egypt by Atherton.

PERES COMMENTS ON SINAI AIRFIELDS, CONCESSIONS

TA011209Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[Text] The head of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres, has said that we will not be able to give up our airfields in Egypt as long as peace has not been attained with all the Arab states, since the Syrian and Iraqi air forces are larger than those of England and France put together. Nevertheless, it is possible to tell As-Sadat, Peres continued, that Israel is prepared to give up the Sinai airfields and that it will evacuate them upon reaching a comprehensive peace with all the region's countries.

Talking in an assembly of committees of moshavs belonging to the regional council of Mate Yehuda, held in Bet Zayit, Peres attacked the Likud's economic and political concepts. According to him, the Likud has badly conducted the political negotiations and the economic situation in the country is worsening daily. The Likud as an ideological movement went bankrupt, Peres said, because it had for years talked of peace without concessions and a few months after it rose to power, it gave up the entire Sinai without negotiations.

ACTION TAKEN AGAINST POISONED CITRUS FRUIT

TA020745Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Health Ministry laboratories will begin examining oranges and packing houses today. Israel has requested details on the orange poisoning from health ministries in Holland, Belgium and Germany and from the World Health Organization. In Switzerland, health officials say the danger of orange poisoning there is very slim. A supermarket chain that sells 50 percent of Israeli oranges sold in Switzerland has announced it will continue marketing Israeli citrus. Scandinavian countries have also begun examining Israeli fruit.

BANGLADESH

MAURITIAN PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES IN DACCA 1 FEB

BK0109182 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 1 Feb 78 BK

[Text] A warm welcome was accorded to the prime minister of Mauritius, Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, when he arrived in Dacca a short while ago on a 4-day visit to Bangladesh. He is accompanied by Lady Ramgoolam. President and Begum Ziaur Rahman received the distinguished guests at the airport. A 19-gun salute heralded the arrival of the Maruitian prime minister. After the airport ceremony, the distinguished guests left for Banga Bhavan in a ceremonial motorcade, where they will stay.

Talking to newsmen briefly, Mr Ramgoolam said we have come to the most friendly country at the invitation of President Zia. He said he was carrying the good wishes and the greetings of the people of Mauritius for the people of Bangladesh. He said his visit will provide an opportunity to renew the friendship between the two countries.

Asked if he would discuss any specific problem, Mr Ramgoolam said there are a lot of problems relating to the north-south dialogue, the Middle East, the Indian Ocean zone and Africa. Also [words indistinct] discussions with the Bangladesh leaders during the current visit.

Later they will go to (Sabhoy) to place wreaths at the national memorial for martyrs. In the evening the Maruitian prime minister will call on President Zia. Later, President and Begum Ziaur will host a dinner at Banga Bhavan in honor of the visiting dignitaries. The distinguished guests will go to Chittagong tomorrow to see the fertilizer factory and paper and rayon mills. Formal talks between President Zia and the Maruitian prime minister will be held in Dacca on Friday.

Our diplomatic representative understands that the talks are expected to cover matters of bilateral and international issues of common concern.

Ramgoolam, Rahman Speeches

BK0209022 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 2 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The Maruitian prime minister, Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, has said his country is taking steps to call a conference of neighboring states and interested powers to discuss establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean. Sir Ramgoolam was speaking at a banquet given in his honor by President Zia at Banga Bhavan last night.

He said the proposed conference will discuss ways and means to achieve the concept of peace. Sir Ramgoolam recalled that during the last Commonwealth conference the matter was raised and it was thought that a conference of all neighboring countries of the Indian Ocean and other powers could be called to enable them to discuss the problem. He said he is taking steps to see such a conference take place in Mauritius as stipulated in the Commonwealth conference.

The Mauritius prime minister referred to the problems in different parts of the world and said we are going through a very difficult time. He specially mentioned the problem of Palestinians and the Arab countries and the liberation war in some African countries, including Namibia and Zimbabwe, and said we are committed to peace if these countries become free in the real sense of the term.

Sir Ramgoolam said we would like to see that discrimination and apartheid are completely ousted from our midst. He hoped that very soon it will be possible to see the whole area becoming free.

Reiterating his country's commitment to peace and to the economic, social and political development of its people, the prime minister said that to attain this goal it is essential to have peace and harmony in every part of the world. Sir Ramgoolam said Bangladesh and Mauritius have been working for many years together at all forums, including the United Nations. He assured the president that this will continue till the end of time. He also expressed the confidence that with justice and freedom we should be able to stand together with other nations of the world to work for the common good of everybody and every country in the world.

Deploring the diverging tendency which is trying to divide one part of the world from the other, the prime minister expressed the hope that there would be a decline in such a tendency in the future and that we would be able to work together in the United Nations as well as bilaterally for peace and common endeavor for the sake of our own people.

The Maruitian prime minister thanked the president for the warm welcome accorded to him and to his entourage by the people of Bangladesh. He also expressed his gratitude for doing everything to make their stay comfortable. He said that a sense of justice and freedom that inspires the people of both countries makes it only natural that there should be intense cooperation between them. The prime minister praised the president's dedicated service to the people and his sense of patriotism of the most high order to bring about peace and prosperity in Bangladesh.

Welcoming the Maruitian prime minister, President Zia said effective cooperation between Bangladesh and Mauritius in various spheres for the attainment of common goals and objectives can prove highly beneficial to both the countries. The president said Bangladesh looks forward to a promising future of increasing cooperation between the two countries.

He said the people of Bangladesh are making every effort to attain the goal of economic self-reliance within the shortest possible time. President Zia reiterated Bangladesh's desire to live in peace and harmony with all. To this end, he said, Bangladesh has been pursuing a consistent policy based on the principles of mutual respect for sovereign equality and noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

Describing the present inequitable world economic order as the root of the ever widening disparity between the developed and the developing nations, President Zia said this has posed a serious threat to our efforts for economic development. He said Bangladesh, therefore, strongly supports the move for the establishment of a new and just international economic order as soon as possible. On the political scene, President Zia said there are certain areas where stable political equilibrium is yet to be reached.

INDIA

YUGOSLAV VICE PRESIDENT HOLDS TALKS WITH OFFICIALS

LD011724Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1611 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] New Delhi, February 1 (TANJUG)--President of Yugoslavia Vice-President Stevan Doronjski today visited in Delhi the president of India, Sanjeeva Reddy. Doronjski transmitted greetings and best wishes of Yugoslav President Tito to Indian President Reddy. Doronjski arrived yesterday afternoon for a four-day official visit to India.

In the ensuing talk with the guest from Yugoslavia, Reddy spoke highly of the personality of the Yugoslav president. He recalled his earlier meetings with President Tito in India and Yugoslavia. Reddy highly assessed the role and the contribution of President Tito to the struggle for more equal international relations and peace in the world.

Reddy also extended an invitation to President Tito to visit India.

During the talk, both sides stressed satisfaction with the present longstanding friendly and close relations between India and Yugoslavia and a wish was stated for their further advancement.

This morning Vice-President Doronjski held talks with Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai. The Indian prime minister called on Vice-President Doronjski in his residence, in the presidential palace here in New Delhi. The talks, originally scheduled to last forty-five minutes, extended to over an hour.

In an atmosphere of cordiality and traditional friendship, views were extended on the development of Yugoslav-Indian cooperation and a number of topical international questions

Vice-President Doronjski conveyed to Prime Minister Desai greetings from President Tito and his wish for the Indian prime minister to visit Yugoslavia soon.

The Indian prime minister said he considers President Tito to be one of the most outstanding world leaders, and expressed great appreciation for the Yugoslav statesman's efforts for and contribution to the improvement of international relations, especially the reinforcement of non-aligned countries' unity and action capacity.

Both sides voiced their desire for the further development and strengthening of relations between Yugoslavia and India in all fields. Doronjski and Desai were agreed that Yugoslav Indian cooperation should include the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

While exchanging views on the most topical international questions, Doronjski and Desai especially focused on continued cooperation among the further efforts of non-aligned countries in their struggle to resolve today's major problems in this connection. The importance of the forthcoming non-aligned ministerial conference in Belgrade was underline

A number of current world (?places) of crisis, particularly developments in the Middle East, were also discussed.

In the talks Vice-President Doronjski and Premier Desai stressed the need for further engagement of the non-aligned countries towards putting an end to the armament race. They emphasized that all countries should fully contribute to the successful outcome of the pending U.N. General Assembly special session on disarmament. It was also pointed out that nuclear powers must take more decisive steps in stopping the accumulation of weapons, particularly atomic weapons.

Developments in South Asia were also discussed and efforts being invested by countries in this region towards strengthening peace and stability in this region assessed positivel

The Indian press gives outstanding publicity to Presidency of Yugoslavia Vice-President Stevan Doronjski's official visit to India.

Practically all the Indian dailies front-page Stevan Doronjski's press statement made on his arrival here yesterday and excerpts from the toasts exchanged at the dinner offered here yesterday evening in honour of Doronjski by Indian Vice-President Basappa Jatti. The press reports on Doronjski's visit are illustrated with photos.

Stevan Doronjski and members of his party were today guests at a luncheon offered by Indian President Sanjeeva Reddy.

This afternoon Stevan Doronjski will attend the opening of an Indian economic exposition here in New Delhi. Late this afternoon he will meet with Indian Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

NEPAL

PRC VICE PREMIER TO MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT 3-6 FEB

BK011403Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1340 GMT 1 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Katmandu Feb 1, (AFP)--The first round of official talks between Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping and Nepalese Premier Kirti Nidhi Bista will be held on Friday [3 February] afternoon at Singha Durbar, central secretariat.

The Chinese Vice Premier, Mr. Teng, will arrive here at 11:40 a.m. [0600 GMT] from Chengtu in Szechuan Province after a trans-Himalayan flight. Among the 25 members of Mr. Teng's encourage will be Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Han Nien-lung.

The main highlight of Mr. Teng's programme in Katmandu will be his mountain flight in a special aircraft on February 4 although he will fly in over Mt. Everest.

During the mountain flight, the Chinese leader will have a close view of the northern Himalayan frontier adjoining Tibet, the autonomous region of People's China.

On the day of his arrival after hour long official talks, Mr. Teng will visit the Hanuman Dhoka, the ancestral palace of King Birendra, which stands as an example of 17th century architecture and wood carvings.

Later in the evening Mr. Teng will be the guest of honour at a banquet given by Premier Kirti Nidhi Bista at Singha Durbar State Hall.

On Saturday morning Mr. Bista will call on Mr. Teng at the royal guest house before Mr. Teng goes on the mountain flight.

An important function on the second day of Mr. Teng's visit will be his address to a civic reception organised in his honour by the Katmandu municipal authorities at a local open air theatre.

After a brief visit to the Nepalese museum, Mr. Teng will have talks with King Birendra over a quiet dinner at Naraian City Royal Palace.

King Birendra, who has been camping at Surkhet, the headquarters of the far western development centre for the past week, returned to the capital this afternoon with Queen Aishwarya and Crown Prince Deependra.

On Sunday both Nepalese Foreign Minister K.R. Aryal and Finance Minister Dr. B.B. Thapa will call on the Chinese leader separately at the royal guest house in the morning.

In the evening Mr. Teng will give a return banquet dinner in honour of Mr Bista at the Chinese Embassy. He will leave Katmandu on Monday morning [6 February], via the trans-Himalayan route.

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN-EEC COMMISSION BEGINS SESSION IN ISLAMABAD

BK301708Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 30 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The second session of the Pakistan-European Economic Community joint session is beginning in Islamabad today. It will consider the possibilities of increased cooperation between Pakistan and the EEC in the economic field and for joint ventures and technical assistance.

The EEC will be represented at the meeting by a 23-member delegation which arrived in Islamabad last night.

Concludes 2-Day Session

BK010936Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 31 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The Pakistan-EEC joint commission has set up a subcommission to go into the possibilities of increasing Pakistan's exports to the EEC and the setting up of joint ventures. This was stated at a news conference addressed jointly by the leaders of the Pakistan and the EEC delegations in Islamabad this afternoon at the end of the 2-day session of the commission.

The commerce secretary, Mr Mukhtar Masood, who led Pakistan's delegation, said the subcommission would specifically examine possibilities of setting up warehousing facilities in the EEC for Pakistani goods. It will also work out the setting up of a display center for Pakistani products at Rotterdam.

The commerce secretary said they would like the subcommission to study the question of joint ventures in private and public sectors in Pakistan as well as joint ventures by Pakistan and the EEC in third countries. The subcommission would also examine the subcontracting potential of Pakistani industries for EEC firms. It would study the report of the last subcommission about the transfer of technology, in view of its particular interest to Pakistan.

Referring to the EEC's generalized scheme of preferences, the commerce secretary said Pakistan felt that in order to expand its trade with the EEC, new items should be added to the scheme and quotas of existing items should be increased. He said that in response to Pakistan's request, a team of EEC experts will visit Pakistan next month to advise on the cultivation and sale of tobacco. He said the EEC has agreed to finance a Pakistan trade mission to the EEC, Pakistan's participation in four international trade fairs this year and the publication of brochures of (?all) Pakistani commodities in six languages.

The leader of the EEC delegation, Mr Volpi, said the EEC has a special fund for giving technical and financial assistance to developing countries and Pakistan could benefit from it.

COURT DECIDES TO HEAR BHUTTO CASE IN CAMERA

BK011046Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 1 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The full bench of the Lahore High Court trying the Nawab Mohammad Ahmed Khan murder case has decided to hold the remaining trial proceedings in camera with a view to settling issues connected with the case on a just and correct basis.

In a brief order, the court said that the principal accused, Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, when called upon to make a statement, had at the very outset said that he had decided to boycott the proceedings of the case and that he was not ready to answer questions directly related to his defense. He further stated that he would like to make a statement on the reasons why this case had been fabricated against him, as he put it. Mr Bhutto further said that he will throw light on the reasons why he does not expect a fair trial and verdict.

The court order said that the accused had filed more than one petition leveling unfounded and scandalous charges against the impartiality of the full bench. Petitions were also filed in the Supreme Court requesting the transfer of the case on the ground of bias; the first was dismissed and the second withdrawn.

It is quite clear, the court order said, that the same procedure will be tried again in order to defame the court without basis and to take advantage of the tradition that this court does not defend itself in the press.

The court said that a few supporters of the principal accused were heard shouting outside the chief justice's chamber. It was evident that they wanted to create disturbances in the courtroom during the trial. In these circumstances and since all the evidence in the case has already been recorded in open court, it has been directed that to end the possibility of such disturbances, the proceedings will be held in camera. The daily proceedings will, however, be released to the press for publication.

The statement of an ex-director of the Federal Security Force and a coaccused, Mian Mohammad Abbas, was released to the press yesterday.

SRI LANKA

OPPOSITION TO BOYCOTT JAYEWARDENE'S INAUGURATION

BK290938Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0850 GMT 29 Jan 78 BK

[Excerpt] Colombo, Jan 29 (AFP)--The two opposition parties in parliament will boycott next Saturday's ceremonies when the prime minister, J.R. Jayewardene, will be sworn in as the country's first executive president.

Former Prime Minister Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and the minority Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), have announced they would not participate in the ceremonies which will also mark the 30th anniversary of independence.

The two opposition parties also boycotted the debate in parliament last October when a major constitutional amendment was passed with the help of the government's massive majority to establish a presidential system of government in Sri Lanka and to appoint Mr Jayewardene as the first president with wide executive powers.

The SLFP in a statement today charged that the constitutional change "is a part of the process to take this country along the road to dictatorship, to take away the rights and privileges of the people and to entrench capitalism in Sri Lanka."

The statement said the SLFP will not take part in what it called "this mockery of the democratic process" and declared that the constitutional changes will eventually be reversed by the people. The Tamil Party has also decided not to participate in the ceremonies saying that the constitutional changes have not provided any redress for the grievances of the minority Tamil community.

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